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REPORT

OF

COMMISSION

TO

Investigate Certain Poor-Houses

HARRISBURG:

C. E. AUGHINBAUGH, PRINTER TO THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1911.

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REPORT OF

Commission to Investigate Certain Poor-Houses

February 8th, 1911.

TO THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Your commission, appointed pursuant to the provisions of your resolution of 5th April, 1909, and the act of 15th May, 1909, Section 24 (P. L. 911), to investigate into the past and present conduct, management and affairs of the poor-houses located in the townships of Roxborough, Bristol, Germantown, Oxford and Lower Dublin, in the county of Philadelphia, respectively reports that:

Your commission held meetings on June 12th, 1909, June 25th, 1910, September 20th, 1910, and November 29th, 1910. On the first day of December, 1910, it proceeded to a physical examination of the poor-houses included in its investigation, and on the 4th, 10th and 18th days of January, 1911, held meetings in Philadelphia, at which twenty-four witnesses were examined. On the 24th day of January, 1911, your commission met at Harrisburg to discuss and agree upon this report.

I. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF POOR-HOUSES.

1. Bristol.

Your commission finds that there is not, and probably never was, a poor-house in the township of Bristol, although there still are distinct and separate guardians for the relief and employment of the poor, with power to levy taxes and administer outdoor relief. The erection of a poor-house was provided for by the second section of the Act of 27 March, 1823 (P. L. 114), but this section was repealed, apparently before any building had been done, by the Act of 3 March, 1829 (P. L. 47), and there has been no subsequent legislation to authorize its construction.

2. Germantown, Roxborough, Oxford and Lower Dublin.

Your commission found the poor-houses in Germantown, Roxborough and Oxford and their grounds all in excellent condition as far as cleanliness and comfort are concerned, and nothing but commenda-

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tion can be expressed for the care taken of the institutions and of their inmates. The Germantown poor-house is located at Rittenhouse Street and Pulaski Avenue, and has about twelve acres, the property being worth, according to the report furnished to the State Board of Charity, \$150,000.00. The Roxborough poor-house is located on East Shawmont Avenue, Roxborough, and has about forty acres, the property being worth, in the opinion of the president of the board, \$50,000.00. The Oxford poor-house is located on Cottman Street, at Pennypack Creek, has one hundred and thirty-five to one hundred and fifty acres, and is carried on the books of the institution at \$100,000.00.

II. CONDUCT, MANAGEMENT AND AFFAIRS OF POOR-HOUSES.

The poor-houses in each instance are managed by directors, called in Bristol, guardians, and in Germantown and in Roxborough, managers, elected by popular vote. Many of these directors were examined by your commission, and although criticisms are made hereinafter as to their methods of conduct and management, your commission was impressed with the earnestness and interest displayed by these gentlemen, most of whom receive no, and the others very meagre, compensation.

After careful consideration, your commission has been forced to the conclusion, however, that the existence of these*separate poor-houses and of the present system of conducting and administering them, has caused certain results, which are to be deplored.

These results are, firstly, lack of efficiency in administration, secondly, possibility of excessive poor taxes, thirdly, lack of economy in the care of the poor, and fourthly, laxity in conduct of affairs.

1. Lack of Efficiency in Administration.

Except in Bristol, Germantown, Roxborough and Oxford and Lower Dublin, the indigent of the city of Philadelphia, are cared for in the almshouse at Blockly, erroneously called "The Hospital for the Indigent", which is under the jurisdiction of the director of the Department of Public Health and Charities. Its average daily population during the year 1910 was twelve hundred and seventy-five.

In the excepted townships, the poor-houses are under the jurisdiction of bodies, or, as we shall term them hereafter, boards of directors, composed of twenty members. The total population of the three houses at the time of the meetings was one hundred and fifty-four.

It needs no argument to show the manifold advantages of a single executive, having undivided responsibility, and establishing uniform rules. There thus can be secured, for example, uniformity in the requirements for admission to the poor-house, in the insistence upon the performance of work by the inmates, and in the enforcement of contribution, by the relatives of the paupers, to the support of the paupers. These are three very important matters in which there is room for substantial improvement in one or more of the poor-houses.

2. Possibility of Excessive Poor Taxes.

The poor rate has been fixed by the directors of the poor in Roxborough, Bristol, Germantown and Oxford and Lower Dublin at five per cent., but it is interesting to note that there seems to be a wide discretion vested in the directors as to what the rate shall be. The act of 27 March 1823, (P. L. 114), applicable to Bristol, provides (Section 5) that the guardians, with the approbation of any two justices of the peace in Philadelphia county may lay a tax up to \$0.50 per \$100.00 on all real and personal estate in the township. In Oxford and Lower Dublin, the directors similarly may levy up to \$0.75 on the \$100.00, Act of 11 April, 1807 (P. L. 259). In Roxborough, the Act of 16th May, 1878, (P. L. 53), makes the rate the same as in the city of Philadelphia. In Germantown, the matter apparently still is controlled by the Act of 9 March, 1771, (2 Biorens Laws 1), Section 4 of which fixes a maximum of three pence on the pound (over \$1.00 on the \$100.00), assessable as many times a year as necessary. Merely to mention the existence of so unrestricted a power, is to point out the necessity of correction.

3. Lack of Economy in the Care of the Poor.

While the municipal almshouse at Blockley always is filled to its capacity, the poor-houses under investigation were found to be less than one-half full. At Oxford and Lower Dublin, the house has a capacity of one hundred and fifteen. At present there are sixty-four inmates and the steward testified that in five years, the maximum had been sixty-eight. At Germantown the capacity is one hundred and fifty. There are now seventy-two inmates and the superintendent testified that there had been one hundred and thirty-five, five or six years ago, and as few as sixty-eight. At Roxborough the house can hold sixty-five to seventy. There are now eighteen inmates, and the superintendent testified that that was the greatest number in nine years. The minimum was ten people. These figures show that there is a waste of space and an extravagance of so-called "overhead" charge, for it would cost little more for salaries and no more for capital investment, if the houses were filled.

At the same time, it is only fair to say that the per capita cost of maintenance in the various institutions is not excessive. The fact is that there are so many ways of calculating this elusive figure by including or excluding certain items of cost, that it is difficult to compare results. At Blockly the per capita weekly cost of maintenance was figured at \$2.02 for males and \$2.17 for females, in 1909, and at \$1.90 for males and \$2.19 for females in 1910. The State Board of Charities, however, figured the cost in 1909 at \$3.66. The Germantown Board calculated the average weekly cost per capita at \$2.32 in 1908, and at \$3.73 in 1909, a difference explicable only by the fact that different methods of computation were used in the two years. Both Dr. Neff, Director of the Department of Public Health and Charities, and Mr. Bromley Wharton, General Agent and Secretary of the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania, testified to your commission that the cost of maintenance at a central institution would be less than at the separate institutions. Dr. Neff stated that he had not modified the views expressed by him in his report to the Mayor for the year ending December 31st, 1907, in which he said (pp. 24, 25):

"The per capita cost of maintenance of inmates in the Philadelphia Hospital for the Indigent is less than half that required for maintenance in these separate homes. From an economic as well as an administrative standpoint, it is respectfully recommended that all of the poor should be in one institution and under one management."

A large part of the revenue collected by the local poor boards goes to the maintenance of the insane of the township at the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane, and at Norristown. This money, of course, is administered solely by the authorities of those institutions, just as money paid for the support of the insane from any part of Philadelphia. The cost in the separate poor districts of collecting this money, which, as stated, is paid over for administration by other people, is an uncompensated waste. In Oxford and Lower Dublin for the year ending April 15th, 1909, \$7,135.56 was applied for this purpose, and for the year ending April 15th, 1910, \$7,233.40, being in each case almost twenty-five per cent. of the entire amount disbursed. In Germantown for the year 1909, the item amounted to \$10,099.33, which was over twenty-five per cent. The figures for 1910 are not available as yet. In Roxborough the amount was about fifteen per cent. of the entire receipts.

It may be noted here as an indication of the necessary lack of economy in the operation of separate institutions, each containing few people, that there is no resident physician, and when the inmates

become ill (not, of course, in trifling cases), it is necessary to send them to the general hospital. Where physicians are called in, there is separate expense on each occasion. At Oxford and Lower Dublin for the year ending April 15th, 1910, \$610.00 was paid for physicians' services. At Blockley, as was testified by Doctor Sykes, the chief resident physician, there is no extra expense at all for the medical care of over twelve hundred people, for the reason that an interne from the hospital is deputized to do this work.

The most important thing to be noticed, however, is that there does not seem to be any care taken to keep the expenditures within the income. The most flagrant offender in this regard is Oxford and Lower Dublin. For the year ending April 15th, 1909, the income, exclusive from loans from bank, was \$26,450.62. During the same period, the expenditures, exclusive of notes, were \$30,555.77, and for the year ending April 15th, 1910, the receipts, exclusive of money received from the city for land condemned, and, of course, not an ordinary receipt, were \$26,455.70. During the same period, the expenditures, exclusive of notes and mortgages, which similarly are not current expenses, were \$31,392.61. The necessary result of a continuance of such financial management is obvious. In the case of Roxborough, the expenditures for the year ending March 25th, 1909, exceeded the income by about \$500, almost ten per cent. of the total receipts. For the year ending March 24th, 1910, the expenditures exceeded the receipts by almost \$1,500.00 more than twenty-five per cent. of the total receipts. In the case of Germantown, for the year ending January, 1909, which is the last report available, the receipts seem to have been slightly in excess of the expenditures.

III. LAXITY IN CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS.

The last mentioned remarks as to the making of expenditures in excess of income indicate that there is more or less unbusiness-like management of the finances. As a matter of fact, there is no budget prepared in any of the districts, and no apportionment of the expenditures to any particular months. In other words, the entire year's income could be spent in a single month. In addition to this, there is no limit on the amount which each director may spend on outdoor relief during any month, and if directors were extravagant, it readily can be seen how disastrous the result might be. The evils resulting from this unsystematic course, which is common to all the townships, are admitted and the directors have assured your commission of their intention to remedy them.

More serious, however, than the possible harm from the foregoing consideration, are the instances of actual improper disbursements, authorized, no doubt, without any improper motives.

Most conspicuous of these disbursements is the money spent by the Oxford and Lower Dublin and by the Germantown Board, for the purpose of defeating the legislation introduced in your honorable body at the session of 1909, looking to the abolition of the separate poor-houses in Philadelphia county. In the case of Oxford and Lower Dublin, \$600.00 of the money raised for the poor was authorized to be spent, and apparently was spent, in attorney's fees, paid, it may be assumed, for the purpose of investigating the power of the Legislature in the premises, and inducing it not to exercise the power if it had it. In the case of Germantown, \$800.00 was authorized to be paid to the salaried solicitor of the Board, to be used as he might deem most effective to defeat the threatened legislation. The solicitor testifies that he was not otherwise restricted in the use of the money, but the money was used for the purpose of having a special train and transporting to Harrisburg, free of cost, such residents of Germantown as were willing to go to Harrisburg and enter their protest against abolishing the poor-houses, and your commission believes that it was understood by the directors, when the appropriation was made, that the money was to be employed in this manner.

The use of funds for such a purpose certainly was not intended, and if it was not illegal—as to which it is unnecessary for your commission to make a finding—it was most reprehensible, proceeding, as it must have, on the theory that the Legislature would not otherwise give proper weight to all aspects of the question of abolition. The action becomes much more flagrant from the fact that the expenditure is not revealed in an intelligible manner in the financial statements of the Germantown Board of the year 1909, a criticism which does not apply to the Oxford and Lower Dublin Board.

The Oxford and Lower Dublin Board, however, is open to serious criticism for its continued purchase of poor-house supplies from directors. In the case of Germantown and Roxborough there are local acts, expressly prohibiting such dealings under penalty of \$100.00 fine: (see Acts of 10 April, 1836, P. L. 152, Section 3, and 20 June, 1839, P. L. 337, Section 16). There does not seem to be any special act applicable to Oxford and Lower Dublin, but the general act of 15 May, 1874 (P. L. 180), makes it unlawful “for any director of the poor, in any county of this Commonwealth where said office exists, to be concerned or personally interested in any contract for furnishing supplies for the maintenance of the poor, or for the construction or improvement of property under their control.” Irrespective of any statute, the impropriety of having a director sell supplies to a board of which he is a part, is evident, except in the rarest cases of unforeseeable emergency. The sales by directors of the Oxford and Lower Dub-

lin township could not come under this head. It may be said that counsel for the Board admitted the wrong, and promised that it would be discontinued.

In the case of Roxborough, there was also an increase of the salaries of the President and Treasurer of the Board, not sanctioned by any resolution in the minute book of the Board.

In the case of this Board, there was also a failure on the part of the Treasurer to give any bond, in plain violation of the law, which requires the Treasurer to give security to double the amount of the tax assessed in the township (see Act of 8 April, 1833, P. L. 353, extending to Roxborough the provisions of the Act of 31 March, 1809, P. L. 139, applicable to Germantown, and see Section 5 of this latter Act).

In very few cases, either in Roxborough or Oxford and Lower Dublin, did the minute books show that the officers had been sworn, as required by law, and in the case of Germantown, the bond of the collector of taxes was not entered up in the Prothonotary's office, as required by Section 6 of the Act of June 20, 1839 (P. L. 337), a neglect which results in depriving the township of the security intended by that Act to be given to it.

Another instance of the failure to observe the strict letter of the law is the payment by the steward of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor-House of small wages to inmates of that institution. It was never intended that paupers, fed, clothed and sheltered at the expense of the tax-payers, should be entitled to be paid for work which they did, unless the value of that work exceeded the cost of their maintenance. For this reason the poor-house acts provide that paupers shall be charged a fair price for the relief received by them and credited with a just and liberal allowance for any work done (see Act of 9 April, 1828, P. L. 250, Section 3, making such provision for Oxford and Lower Dublin). The steward testified that no charge at all was made against the inmates for the relief received by them.

Your Commission calls attention to the foregoing instances of the failure strictly to obey the law, not because of any serious consequences suffered by reason thereof, or even of any grave dangers threatened on account of them. They do show, however, the danger inherent in the conduct of affairs where, as in the case of at least two of the boards, the directors are re-elected term after term, until they come to feel as if they were subject to no superior authority, and to act in the untechnical and informal way in which an ordinary business man handles his own business.

Your Commission recommends the passage of an act, repealing the existing legislation for the care of the poor of Bristol, Germantown, Oxford and Lower Dublin and Roxborough, and the transfer of all the property, belonging to the present directors of the poor thereof, to the City of Philadelphia. In order that there may be accommo-

dations for the inmates of these poor-houses, your Commission suggests that the Act be not passed until the Director of the Department of Public Health and Charities certifies that there is room in the Hospital for the Indigent to provide such persons with accommodations equally as comfortable as their accommodations now are. It may be remarked that the poor-houses themselves could be used admirably by the City of Philadelphia for the care of indigent children, and perhaps for the treatment of certain diseases. It may also be suggested, although perhaps beyond the scope of the investigation which your Commission was directed to make, that an Act be passed, making it unlawful for any agency of the State to expend its revenues for the purpose of defeating or securing the passage of legislation applicable to such agency.

Attached hereto is a transcript of the testimony taken by your Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE WOLF, Chairman,

EDWIN H. VARE,

MILES C. ROWLAND,

EDW. F. JAMES,

WILLIAM C. McCONNELL.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(Poor Boards Investigation).

Philadelphia, Pa., January 4th, 1911.

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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION OF APRIL 5th, 1909.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 4th, 1911.

Meeting held at the office of the Chairman, Hon. Clarence Wolf, Empire Building, Thirteenth and Walnut Streets, at 2 o'clock P. M., Wednesday afternoon on the above date, pursuant to notice.

PRESENT:

HON. CLARENCE WOLF, Philadelphia, Chairman.
 HON. EDWIN H. VARE, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HON. EDWARD F. JAMES, Hazleton, Pennsylvania.
 HON. WILLIAM C. McCONNELL, Shamokin, Pennsylvania.
 HON. MILES C. ROWLAND, Rowland, Pennsylvania.
 ASA RUTE, Sergeant-at-Arms, Hazleton, Pennsylvania.
 MORRIS WOLF, Esq., Counsel for Committee.
 MR. ELMER SCHLICHTER, Secretary, Philadelphia.

Of GERMANTOWN POOR BOARD.

JAMES F. FRIEL, Esq., Solicitor,
 JOHN F. RAUSENBERGER, Superintendent,
 WILLIAM H. COUPE, Manager,
 WILLIAM WILKIE, President,
 JAMES J. FINN, Secretary,
 WALTER BOWDITCH, Treasurer.

Of OXFORD and LOWER DUBLIN POOR BOARD:

GEORGE K. HOFF, President,
 AMOS C. SHALLCROSS, Treasurer,
 LINWOOD, T. HOLMES, Secretary,
 SAMUEL F. KELLY, Superintendent.

Of ROXBOROUGH POOR BOARD:

GEORGE C. BOWKER, Esq., Counsel,
 NATHAN JONES, President, ,
 W. W. UMSTED, Secretary,
 JOHN BROOKLEY, Superintendent.

THE CHAIRMAN: As the gentlemen here present have been notified of this meeting and the purpose for which it has been called, there hardly seems any necessity for any further remarks on the part of the Chair, and we will therefore proceed with the business in hand. Mr. Shallcross, of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board, has requested the privilege of being first called, and with the approval of the other members of the Committee we will examine him first.

OXFORD and LOWER DUBLIN POOR BOARD.

AMOS C. SHALLCROSS, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: You are the Treasurer of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board, are you not?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. SHALLCROSS: 8139 Frankford avenue.

MR. WOLF: When were you elected treasurer?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Some years ago.

MR. WOLF: That was the first time?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: When were you last re-elected?

MR. SHALLCROSS: April, 1910.

MR. WOLF: I suppose that you have charge of the financial affairs of the poor house?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And are familiar with its income and its expenses?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: I asked you to bring with you your books, did you bring them?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir; all I have.

MR. WOLF: What do they consist of, Mr. Shallcross?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Here they are, sir.

(Books produced by Mr. Shallcross).

MR. WOLF: These consist of a cash book and a ledger?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Shallcross, what are the sources of your revenue?

MR. SHALLCROSS: The source of our revenue is derived from three wards of the city, the Twenty-third, the Thirty-fifth and the Forty-first wards, and of course some revenue derived from a farm and from farming products returned by the steward.

MR. WOLF: Have you any revenue other than the taxes you collect from those wards and what is made on your farm?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Except we have some outside sick and poor, and we help them by relief, several of them.

MR. WOLF: Do you still get any part of the dog tax?

MR. SHALLCROSS: No, we don't have any dog tax.

MR. WOLF: Can you, by reference to your books, tell me what the income from the tax was in 1909, for instance?

MR. SHALLCROSS: I can't tell exactly. Mr. Wolf, have you one of these printed pamphlets? I think that would show that. (Pamphlet produced). That tells the whole story. It was \$21,561.48 from the tax duplicate, and then from the delinquent taxes \$2,137.67.

MR. WOLF: That is, for the year ending—?

MR. SHALLCROSS: That is for last year.

MR. WOLF: Ending April 15th, 1910?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: For the year ending April 15th, 1909, the tax duplicate was what?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Tax duplicate for the year 1908, \$19,493.10; tax duplicate for the year 1909, \$1,810.74, and from delinquent taxes \$2,216.49.

MR. WOLF: How are those taxes collected?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Collected by the collectors: we have two collectors, one collector collects in the district north of what we call Bridge street and running up to Poquessing Creek, and the other for the balance of the territory.

MR. WOLF: What do you pay your tax collectors?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Six per cent.

MR. WOLF: On the amount collected?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir; except the collector of delinquent taxes, he gets 10 per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN: They pay six per cent. for the collection of the tax and ten per cent. for the delinquent taxes?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: At what rate do you tax the land?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Seven cents.

MR. WOLF: Is that fixed or does it vary each year?

MR. SHALLCROSS: It varies, it has been that way for some time, it really hasn't been quite enough to carry out the demands of the institution; it ought to be more.

MR. WOLF: How is the amount of the tax rate determined?

MR. SHALLCROSS: That is determined by the board.

MR. WOLF: By your board?

MR. SHALLCROSS: By the Board of Directors.

MR. WOLF: Do you happen to know what the maximum charge is?

MR. SHALLCROSS: I don't know exactly, but you have a right to charge a large sum; I don't know exactly what it is.

MR. WOLF: Your tax depends on the assessments as furnished by the Board of Revision of Taxes, is that right?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes.

MR. WOLF: They furnish you a tax duplicate?

MR. SHALLCROSS: No, we have to have a man there to make them out at the tax office.

MR. WOLF: When do you begin to collect your taxes?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Just as soon as the books are out sometime about the first of February or March. It depends on the time you get the books out.

MR. WOLF: How much have you collected of the taxes since April 15th, 1910, can you tell by reference to your books?

MR. SHALLCROSS: April 15th, 1910?

MR. WOLF: Yes, the bulk of them comes in between then and August?

MR. SHALLCROSS: The bulk of the tax comes in between December and January.

MR. WOLF: I would like to know how much you have got?

MR. SHALLCROSS: (Referring to book). Here is how it is received (indicating book).

MR. WOLF: Your property is tax free, is it not?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Do you know what it costs you?

MR. SHALLCROSS: The property?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

MR. SHALLCROSS: I think the main building cost about \$25,000.

MR. WOLF: Do you know when it was built?

MR. SHALLCROSS: I think it was built about '65.

MR. WOLF: Do you carry on your books what I might call a "property account" showing the present value of your property?

MR. SHALLCROSS: We usually do it, yes, at the end of the year.

MR. WOLF: The report doesn't show it, can you tell me at what you carried your property at the close of last year?

MR. SHALLCROSS: That book should show it, farm and improvements, stock, and so forth.

MR. WOLF: These two printed reports that I have, one marked "Accounts of the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment for the Township of Oxford and Lower Dublin, for the year ending April 15th, 1909, and the other for the year ending April 15th, 1910," are taken from your books?

MR. SHALLCROSS: They are taken from the Secretary's book.

MR. WOLF: Does he also keep a financial account?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Isn't it checked up with your books?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes; it is all checked up, and when these books are audited it is at the same time.

MR. WOLF: And those books, as far as you know, are correct?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: They balance up with your books?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

(Mr. Shallcross submits for the information of the Committee two printed pamphlets of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board, one each for the year 1909 and 1910, which said pamphlets are marked "Exhibit No. 1" and "Exhibit No. 2," for identification).

MR. WOLF: Your expenditures consist of, I suppose, salaries, of cost of maintenance of inmates, and of the cost of maintenance of insane patients?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, at Norristown.

MR. WOLF: And what else?

MR. SHALLCROSS: In the city.

MR. WOLF: And miscellaneous expenses?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What salaries do you pay?

MR. SHALLCROSS: I get one hundred dollars as Treasurer.

MR. WOLF: Who else?

MR. SHALLCROSS: The Secretary gets one hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: Do you know what other salaries are paid?

MR. SHALLCROSS: The steward gets six hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: The auditors get how much?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Five dollars apiece.

MR. WOLF: The solicitor gets how much?

MR. SHALLCROSS: One hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: And the physician is paid how much?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Paid according to the districts.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do your physicians do any outside work outside of the institution?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes, indeed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is this charge in here (indicating pamphlet) "physician's services" so much, it was only done for the institution, or whether that was done and they did outside work, too?

MR. SHALLCROSS: They do the work by the case, some of them won't undertake to do it.

MR. WOLF: How are your provisions supplied, do you have bids for the lowest—for the materials that your institution needs—do you advertise for bids?

MR. SHALLCROSS: Yes; for meats and things like that.

SENATOR JAMES: What salary do you pay the matron?

MR. SHALLCROSS: I really don't know. Eight dollars per week, and the superintendent gets six hundred dollars a year.

(Mr. Shallcross was thereupon excused and retired).

GEORGE K. HOFF, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. HOFF: 7800 Frankford avenue.

MR. WOLF: You are the President of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board?

MR. HOFF: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And have been for how long?

MR. HOFF: I think that I was elected president on the 19th of June, 1902.

MR. WOLF: When were you last re-elected?

MR. HOFF: In the April meeting.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember the date?

MR. HOFF: April, 1910.

MR. WOLF: Of what officers does the Board consist?

MR. HOFF: The president, myself; the Treasurer is Amos C. Shallcross, the gentleman that has just left, and the Secretary, Linwood Holme. Our Solicitor is Henry K. Fries.

MR. WOLF: Are there any other members of the Board?

MR. HOFF: No, not positively of the Board. We elect the physicians, they are elected by the Board, and the steward is elected by the Board.

MR. WOLF: Of how many does the Board consist?

MR. HOFF: There are positively eight. This is the Board (indicating pamphlet).

MR. WOLF: Who are the members of the Board?

MR. HOFF: There are four directors and they are changed each year, two elected above the township line and two below the township line. The present directors are: Lower Dublin, Benjamin Benner and John Biddle; Delaware, George Nicoll and George K. Hoff; Oxford, Casper M. Titus and Thomas Jackson; Frankford, Linwood T. Holme and Frank J. Martin.

THE CHAIRMAN: The same board as in 1910?

MR. HOFF: Yes. In 1909 it was different. Horace Shallcross died in 1909 and Jackson took his place.

MR. WOLF: Your board meets monthly does it not?

MR. HOFF: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Just state how the work of relief is administered by the board?

MR. HOFF: The outside relief?

MR. WOLF: Both. In the first place, you have outside relief and inside relief, is that right?

MR. HOFF: Persons that get into trouble they are sent there by the directors of the different districts and we take care of them until they are fit to come out, and if any one knew he could enter in there, of course we have to take care of them, and some people come there, especially women—maternity cases—they are sent there, and our matron takes care of those cases.

MR. WOLF: What is the capacity of your poor house, and the location?

MR. HOFF: It is on Cottman street, Thirty-fifth Ward, bounded on one side by the Pennypack Creek and on the other side by properties belonging to the gentleman that was sitting here, Mr. Shallcross, and on the lower side I don't know who owns the farm, and we have a right of way out Cottman street—we are not exactly on Cottman street.

MR. WOLF: How much acreage have you?

MR. HOFF: Between one hundred and thirty-five and one hundred and fifty acres.

MR. WOLF: What do you consider the property is worth to-day?

MR. HOFF: On the book there it says one hundred thousand dollars.

MR. WOLF: Is that in your opinion a fair estimate of the value?

MR. HOFF: I am not in that business. If I had the means I would like to give one hundred thousand dollars for it.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, it is worth at least that much would you say?

MR. HOFF: Certainly.

MR. WOLF: What is the capacity of the poor house?

MR. HOFF: Our people in the poor house beside—we have hired help of course. The inmates would run, I think, anywhere from fifty-five to seventy, according to the time of the year, sometimes we have a little more than that; then we have quite a number to the Philadelphia Hospital and we pay for them, and then we have in Norristown forty-five, and of course we have to be very careful of our outside relief. Every case is thoroughly investigated.

MR. WOLF: How much do you pay at Norristown for each patient?

MR. HOFF: One dollar and seventy-five cents appropriated by the State isn't it? We pay \$1.75, that would be three dollars and fifty cents we call it.

MR. WOLF: What I am interested in getting is what is the capacity of your poor house—how many people you can accommodate?

MR. HOFF: I don't think we could any more than what we have got, unless some additions were made.

MR. WOLF: You think you could not accommodate more now?

MR. HOFF: We have had more than we have got there now.

MR. WOLF: How many more?

MR. HOFF: I suppose since I have been in the board—of course we have a report over every day of the inmates and the books will tell the total.

MR. WOLF: Which books?

MR. HOFF: The Secretary's books.

MR. WOLF: Are you able to accommodate all the people who apply there?

MR. HOFF: Not always.

MR. WOLF: Ordinarily is your place more than adequate?

MR. HOFF: I will answer that question by saying that we have got along tolerably, but if we took everybody that come in it would take a large institution, but all the cases are thoroughly investigated.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, you believe that you take care of all that it is absolutely necessary to take care of?

MR. HOFF: Yes.

SENATOR JAMES: Within your district?

MR. HOFF: Yes, sir; I have been a director for eighteen years next spring, and I assure you I would not have given my time to it unless I felt that I am doing some good. We can take a man and give him one dollar or one dollar and fifty cents a week, and a man that comes in there loses his vote, and that bridges over a man in distress.

MR. WOLF: Do you know how many people from your district are at Blockley?

MR. HOFF: No, sir; I couldn't tell, I think about fifty.

MR. WOLF: Do you send them to Blockley or do they apply there in preference to applying to your place?

MR. HOFF: We haven't got any hospital up there, and when we get a case that requires a hospital case we send them there, and if the police picks a man up and we are notified by Boland we take care of them.

MR. WOLF: If a man from your district requires relief he is supposed to get it from you and not from Blockley?

MR. HOFF: That is all right, only relief from sickness or if a person goes there instead of Norristown.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, you are running a poor house and not a hospital?

MR. HOFF: That is right, we can't afford to run a hospital.

MR. WOLF: But no person in your district goes to Blockley if you can accommodate him, is that right?

MR. HOFF: That is right, and then we have other parties to help, too.

(Mr. Hoff was thereupon excused and retired).

LINWOOD T. HOLME, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: You are the Secretary of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What is your address?

MR. HOLME: 1416 Orthodox street.

MR. WOLF: For how long have you been Secretary?

MR. HOLME: Two years.

MR. WOLF: Re-elected in April, 1910?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: You have in your custody the minute books of the directors?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Did you bring them with you?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Will you produce it, please?

(Book produced by Mr. Holme and submitted to the Committee).

MR. WOLF: This contains a record of all your meetings for the last three years?

MR. HOLME: About three years it is stated there.

MR. WOLF: I understand from the Treasurer that you also keep some financial record of the institution?

MR. HOLME: It is in the book, in the minutes.

MR. WOLF: That is, a record of the bills which are approved at the meetings?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: You keep a record of that?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

SENATOR JAMES: You receive the moneys from the collectors?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

SENATOR JAMES: And then you turn them over to the Treasurer?

MR. HOLME: We both are there, and the money given to the Treasurer, and before we disburse the Treasurer gives me an account of what is received.

SENATOR JAMES: And they are put in the minutes?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Does the Treasurer pay out on warrants or what?

MR. HOLME: On orders drawn on the Treasurer and signed by the President.

MR. WOLF: In what name is the bank account kept?

MR. HOLME: Oxford and Lower Dublin.

MR. WOLF: In what bank?

MR. HOLME: Second National Bank, he is a director of that bank.

THE CHAIRMAN: In the admission of people to the institution have you any forms whereon the application is made?

MR. HOLME: No, we have not. I think that would be a good thing to have. We use one of our forms for the outside relief and he fills that in.

MR. WOLF: I suppose that at the meetings a report is made of the persons admitted, is that correct?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

(The Chairman shows to the witness a copy of a form used by the Germantown Poor Board).

THE CHAIRMAN: You do believe that that method is better than the method you have?

MR. HOLME: Certainly. We have about fifty men and ten or twelve women and that makes the men's house full, but the women don't occupy much of the house.

(Mr. Holme was thereupon excused and retired).

SAMUEL F. KELLY, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: You reside and are the steward of the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor House, is that right?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Will you give us a short description of what that house consists of—the number of floors, and so forth?

MR. KELLY: It is a three-story building, composed of second and third floors and divided up into two sections, men's wing and women's wing, the men's the same size as the women's.

MR. WOLF: For how many people does the house furnish accommodation?

MR. KELLY: Fifty men on the men's side, and if the men and women were equally divided we could accommodate one hundred and fifteen.

MR. WOLF: You have fifty men and how many women?

MR. KELLY: Fourteen.

MR. WOLF: You have as much room for the men as for the women?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: In other words, your house is not more than two-thirds full?

MR. KELLY: About that.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember any time when it was entirely full?

MR. KELLY: No, sir; but the highest is about sixty-eight.

MR. WOLF: That is the amount you have got now?

MR. KELLY: At the present time sixty-four.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been there?

MR. KELLY: Five years the first of April.

MR. WOLF: And there has never been over sixty-eight people?

MR. KELLY: That is the highest since I have been there.

MR. WOLF: Are many applications for admissions made directly to you?

MR. KELLY: Once in a while there may be a stranger from the district may come in or call around wanting to know how he could get admission, but they are usually strangers and don't know the rules.

MR. WOLF: You have no right to admit any inmates?

MR. KELLY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: When applicants are admitted what do you get to show that they have been admitted?

MR. KELLY: A note from the director with his signature.

MR. WOLF: And when they are admitted do you keep any record of who they are and their ages and the reason for the admission?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: A permanent record?

MR. KELLY: We have a register there.

MR. WOLF: Will you tell me how the institution is conducted as far as the buying of the supplies are concerned?

MR. KELLY: That is given out. We give out the business for six months' supplies at a time, for meat, provisions and bread, and so forth, and that is advertised in our district only.

MR. WOLF: How do you order then?

MR. KELLY: Just at a board meeting in April and October.

MR. WOLF: But how do you get your supplies? Do you personally give a written order to the people to whom the contracts are awarded?

MR. KELLY: The secretary does that.

MR. WOLF: When you want meat how do you get it?

MR. KELLY: On this order—from the man who gets the contract.

MR. WOLF: And you approve the bills?

MR. KELLY: Yes, I O. K. the bills, all bills and everything that is received.

MR. WOLF: Do you pay any bills?

MR. KELLY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: They are all paid by the Treasurer?

MR. KELLY: All paid by the Treasurer.

SENATOR JAMES: What proportion does your farm supply in your necessities?

MR. KELLY: Potatoes and vegetables.

SENATOR JAMES: Practically all you need?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir; that is in the vegetable line, of course, I mean.

MR. WOLF: Do you sell any of the farm products?

MR. KELLY: Yes; we average somewhere around two thousand dollars a year.

SENATOR McCONNELL: What proportion of your inmates work at the farm?

MR. KELLY: About one-third.

MR. WOLF: What does the other two-thirds do?

MR. KELLY: They are not able to work.

MR. WOLF: What is the average age of your inmates?

MR. KELLY: About sixty.

MR. WOLF: What proportion of the inmates have their support contributed to by relatives?

MR. KELLY: No, sir; not any.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, after they have landed there you are left to take care of them?

MR. KELLY: Yes.

MR. WOLF: And you get no contribution from them?

MR. KELLY: Not unless it is a soldier that gets a pension and they come there in preference to going to the Soldiers' Home.

MR. WOLF: Do you ever discharge them?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir; they are discharged and they leave on their own account to get positions.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is, they come in there in the winter and go out in the spring?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, birds of passage, some of them?

MR. KELLY: Just so.

MR. WOLF: Is there sufficient work for those who are able to work?

MR. KELLY: Yes, we could keep them busy chopping wood, but there are more disabled than able to work.

MR. WOLF: What work do the women do?

MR. KELLY: They are not much good for anything.

MR. WOLF: Is their average age greater than the men?

MR. KELLY: Yes, we have some as high as ninety years old.

MR. WOLF: Do you admit any more than the women who are not able to work?

MR. KELLY: Yes, not many women, because they don't come there, they don't come there unless no one wants them, and that is when they come there.

THE CHAIRMAN: But isn't it a fact that a woman is less liable to go to the poor house? In other words, she don't lose her nerve as quickly, isn't that true?

MR. KELLY: Yes, that is what we find, a woman can get a position anywhere.

THE CHAIRMAN: Don't you believe that a woman will be more careful about going to the poor house than a man?

MR. KELLY: Yes, it is up there.

MR. WOLF: The proportion of men and women there shows that?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR JAMES: What is the value of the farm product that you raise and use?

MR. KELLY: We use in the house about one thousand dollars worth.

SENATOR JAMES: And you have an annual income of what?

MR. KELLY: Three thousand dollars I think it is.

MR. WOLF: Have you anything to do with the outside relief?

MR. KELLY: No, sir; none whatever.

MR. WOLF: Under whose supervision is that?

MR. KELLY: Each director looks after his own district, and they apply to him, and he investigates the case when they come to him.

MR. WOLF: You handle no money at all?

MR. KELLY: Only what I receive from the produce sold off the farm, and that is turned in to the treasurer at each board meeting.

GEORGE K. HOFF, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: Is there any apportionment among the different directors of the amount which each one may expend on outside relief?

MR. HOFF: Do you mean a specific sum?

MR. WOLF: I mean are they limited as to the amount that each one may expend in that way?

MR. HOFF: No, I would tell you if it was. We have been trying to get that straightened out for quite a while, but it is a difficult matter to straighten that. In Frankford there are a great many people

to be looked after, and of course they have got to have a little something to keep them out of the poor house, and of course their bills in Frankford and Tacony would be larger than they would be up above.

MR. WOLF: What is there to limit the amount that any director might spend that way?

MR. HOFF: We have reports and one form, and the idea about the thing is not to get in—

MR. WOLF: Do you appropriate a specific amount at your meetings to be spent by all the directors for a month?

MR. HOFF: We do not.

MR. WOLF: Would there be anything to prevent any one director from incurring an expense which the poor house couldn't meet?

MR. HOFF: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What?

MR. HOFF: For the simple reason that it is very seldom that it will get over two dollars a week to any person.

MR. WOLF: Is there anything else to prevent them?

MR. HOFF: There is an understanding, but a person can do things that you don't expect them to do.

MR. WOLF: Do they get the money first, or spend it and then ask for the money from the board?

MR. HOFF: It is given in orders—orders on the stores. A person coming into distress for outside relief he gets an order for things, and then the store-keepers are instructed by all the directors, I suppose; I know they are by myself, to give them victuals which will last them the longest, and they are not to get anything like forty-five cents a pound for coffee, and things like that.

MR. WOLF: Is there any restriction as to which particular dealers shall be given orders?

MR. HOFF: No, sir. It is in the discretion of the directors—wherever they can do the best—they are sort of apart, and then these orders come in over every day, and the bills are handed to the directors and an order is drawn, and there is no money paid except on the treasurer's check.

MR. WOLF: The minutes will show the amount thus given on the order of each particular director during each particular month?

MR. HOFF: Yes, sir; it is on the books.

(Mr. Hoff was thereupon excused and retired.)

ROXBOROUGH POOR BOARD.

NATHAN L. JONES, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. JONES: 5639 Ridge Avenue, Roxborough.

MR. WOLF: You are the president of the Roxborough Poor Board?

MR. JONES: I am.

MR. WOLF: And have been since when?

MR. JONES: For three years.

MR. WOLF: When last were you re-elected as president of the Board?

MR. JONES: In March 1910.

MR. WOLF: Just tell the composition of your board and who the officers are?

MR. JONES: Myself as president, Harry A. Markley, treasurer, and William Umsted, secretary.

MR. WOLF: Are there only three members of the board, Mr. Jones?

MR. JONES: Three members of board, that is all, sir.

MR. WOLF: How often do you meet?

MR. JONES: The second Thursday of each month.

MR. WOLF: You have a poor house located where?

MR. JONES: East Shawmont Avenue, Roxborough.

MR. WOLF: Your relief is that furnished in the poor house and that called outside relief?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: How is the outside relief administered?

MR. JONES: By the Board of Directors. The township of Roxborough has a population of about twenty-five to twenty-seven thousand.

MR. WOLF: What wards does it comprise?

MR. JONES: Part of the twenty-first, and Manayunk is the boundary line, and the district is divided into three sections; Mr. Markley takes one, Mr. Umsted one, and myself the other.

MR. WOLF: How is the relief administered by those gentlemen?

MR. JONES: You mean as to application, and so forth, sir?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

MR. JONES: Persons in distress apply to the overseers of the poor and after an investigation the overseers give them an order on the various grocery stores in their district.

MR. WOLF: Is there any apportionment of the money to be spent among the three members?

MR. JONES: No, for this reason, that my own district will have two-thirds of the entire ward.

MR. WOLF: Do expenditures have to be approved by the board at its meetings?

MR. JONES: Every month, yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: How?

MR. JONES: The orders issued are presented with the grocery bills every month and the bills are not paid until signed by the secretary and president and checks sent out by the treasurer.

MR. WOLF: What is the method of admitting to the poor house itself?

MR. JONES: The applicant will make application to one of the members of the board of directors and they investigate the case, and if found worthy of admission they will receive a letter from that director admitting them to the institution, with the age, nationality and religion attached to the letter.

MR. WOLF: I assume there is no discrimination made for any reasons?

MR. JONES: Not in the least. There is no discrimination made either in politics or religion. In the outdoor relief two years ago we had a very severe panic and the factories were closed, and while the members of the board were composed of protestants ninety-three per cent. of those receiving relief were catholics, and the board is run for charity and charity alone.

MR. WOLF: Do the admissions to the poor house have to be approved by the directors at their meetings?

MR. JONES: Yes and no. They are all admitted once a month, and then admitted subject to approval.

MR. WOLF: Have you a printed form of application?

MR. JONES: We have.

MR. WOLF: How much land have you?

MR. JONES: Forty acres, about.

MR. WOLF: Have you any idea of the present value of your property?

MR. JONES: I should say our institution is worth \$50,000. The ground is worth probably one thousand dollars an acre and the building \$10,000 I should judge. Of course building operations are a little more expensive than formerly.

MR. WOLF: How many could you accommodate?

MR. JONES: Sixty-five to seventy.

MR. WOLF: How many are there now?

MR. JONES: Eighteen, equally divided between men and women.

MR. WOLF: What proportion of your expenditure goes for outdoor relief and what for the support of your poor house?

MR. JONES: That question could be better answered by the secretary, but we have in Blockley at the present time seven, and we have in Norristown eleven; we pay Blockley one dollar and seventy-five cents a week and at Norristown one dollar and seventy-five cents for ten per week each and five dollars for one, which is an alcohol case, that is special treatment.

MR. WOLF: Have you a printed report?

MR. JONES: The secretary has the printed report.

(Mr. Jones was thereupon excused and retired).

WILLIAM W. UMSTED, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. UMSTED: Wissahickon Avenue and Lincoln Drive, Twenty-first ward.

MR. WOLF: You are the secretary of the Roxborough Poor Board?

MR. UMSTED: Yes.

MR. WOLF: And have been since when?

MR. UMSTED: 1899, April 1st.

MR. WOLF: Do you keep the minutes of the Poor Board?

MR. UMSTED: I do, yes.

MR. WOLF: Did you bring them with you?

MR. UMSTED: Yes, sir; (books produced by the witness and submitted to the committee).

MR. WOLF: This minute book runs from when?

MR. UMSTED: From 1906 to the present time.

MR. WOLF: At the meetings the various bills which are authorized are included in your minutes?

MR. UMSTED: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And bills are paid by the treasurer on whose order?

MR. UMSTED: Order of the president and secretary on orders.

MR. WOLF: You sign the orders as well as the president?

MR. UMSTED: Yes, sir; the checks and orders correspond.

MR. WOLF: In what bank do you keep your funds?

MR. UMSTED: Manayunk Bank.

MR. WOLF: In what name?

MR. UMSTED: I suppose the Poor Board. I will ask him.

MR. WOLF: Have you a copy of your printed report?

MR. UMSTED: It is all in there. (Indicating minute book heretofore produced). The last one is last March. (Copies of the printed report of the treasurer are pasted in the minute book).

SENATOR McCONNELL: That contains the farm products and the value of them?

MR. UMSTED: Yes, and the receipts from the farm.

MR. WOLF: What rate do you collect from the real estate?

MR. UMSTED: We have city rates, suburban and farm.

MR. WOLF: How many cents per hundred?

MR. UMSTED: I think about five cents.

MR. WOLF: Do you know how the money is collected?

MR. UMSTED: Yes.

MR. WOLF: How?

MR. UMSTED: By the tax receivers of Philadelphia, sir, that is how.

MR. WOLF: You don't have local tax collectors?

MR. UMSTED: No, sir; he collects our taxes, and then I go there and get a warrant with the receipt for it at the Chief Clerk of the tax office.

MR. WOLF: As I understand from Mr. Bowker the poor tax in Roxborough is collected by the City and then an appropriation is made by Councils to the Receiver of Taxes, which enables him to pay over to your board the amount which has been collected from Roxborough?

MR. UMSTED: No. Council don't make any appropriation, I go every year and draw it.

MR. WOLF: If you will notice, Mr. Bowker, by reference to the act of 16th of May, 1878—

MR. BOWKER: This one and the Germantown was incorporated under the same provision—

MR. WOLF: (Continuing) Pamphlet Law 1853, you will find it is collected in that way.

MR. WOLF: When do you get your money from the city?

MR. UMSTED: About February. They are making up the duplicate book now.

(Mr. Umsted was thereupon excused and retired).

NATHAN L. JONES, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: What is the rate for your poor house?

MR. JONES: Five per cent. on full city assessments, two and a half on farm, and three and a third on suburban.

MR. WOLF: Is the rate constant or does it vary?

MR. JONES: Constant, it is the rate established by Council, and the city collects it for us and turns it over to us.

SENATOR McCONNELL: And you are not obliged to pay anything for the collection of the taxes?

MR. JONES: That is all.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is just handed over to you net?

MR. JONES: That is all.

SENATOR VARE: Who turns it over, the Receiver of Taxes?

MR. JONES: The Receiver of Taxes.

(Mr. Jones was thereupon excused and retired).

JOHN BROOKLEY, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: You reside at and are the superintendent of the Roxborough Poor House?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been superintendent?

MR. BROOKLEY: Nine years.

MR. WOLF: What salary do you receive?

MR. BROOKLEY: Four hundred and twenty-five dollars a year.

MR. WOLF: Your wife is the matron?

MR. BROOKLEY: My wife is the matron.

MR. WOLF: She receives what salary?

MR. BROOKLEY: One hundred dollars a year.

MR. WOLF: Just give us a brief description of the poor house itself and how many stories it is?

MR. BROOKLEY: Four stories, stone building, and it has got twenty-three rooms.

MR. WOLF: How many people can it accommodate?

MR. BROOKLEY: About sixty-five, somewheres around there.

MR. WOLF: Equally divided between men and women? Are your accommodations for men and women equal?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: How many are there now?

MR. BROOKLEY: Eighteen altogether.

MR. WOLF: How many men and how many women?

MR. BROOKLEY: Nine men and nine women.

MR. WOLF: What is the maximum number of inmates that you have had in your time?

MR. BROOKLEY: Eighteen has been the highest.

MR. WOLF: Any less?

MR. BROOKLEY: There have been as low as ten.

MR. WOLF: What is the average age of the men?

MR. BROOKLEY: Well, they are from sixty-two to eighty-eight.

MR. WOLF: What is the average of your women?

MR. BROOKLEY: Fifty-five to eighty-eight.

MR. WOLF: What proportion of the men work?

MR. BROOKLEY: There are only two working.

MR. WOLF: What work is there for them to do?

MR. BROOKLEY: Sift ashes and work around on the farm, and help to collect corn and pick potatoes—anything. They help all around.

MR. WOLF: Do you raise enough produce to supply your house?

MR. BROOKLEY: Oh, yes.

MR. WOLF: More than enough?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes, I sell a lot.

MR. WOLF: You admit the inmates on orders from the directors?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Do you keep any record of the inmates?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Have you a permanent register?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Showing what?

MR. BROOKLEY: I don't know. I don't attend to the books at all. My wife attends to that.

MR. WOLF: How do you get your supplies?

MR. BROOKLEY: We go to the grocery stores and the butcher comes to the place.

MR. WOLF: And then you present orders?

MR. BROOKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: How does the board know what bills you have unpaid?

MR. BROOKLEY: The butcher and the grocery men send the bills there.

MR. WOLF: Do you advertise for bids for supplying your house?

MR. BROOKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: At any time during the year?

MR. BROOKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Are you sure of that?

MR. BROOKLEY: Not that I know of.

MR. WOLF: Do you handle any money?

MR. BROOKLEY: Yes, I do. I sell the products of the farm.

SENATOR JAMES: How much stuff do you sell, Mr. Brookley?

MR. BROOKLEY: I couldn't say.

SENATOR JAMES: How much, approximately?

MR. BROOKLEY: About eight hundred dollars worth.

(Mr. Brookley was thereupon excused and retired).

NATHAN L. JONES, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: Do you know whether you advertise for supplies for the poor house at the beginning of the year?

MR. JONES: No, they don't advertise but the treasurer goes to Finley Acker & Company and Martindale and gets the bids from them.

(Mr. Jones was thereupon excused and retired).

GERMANTOWN POOR BOARD.

WILLIAM WILKIE, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. WILKIE: 54 West Chelton Avenue.

MR. WOLF: You are the president of the Germantown Poor Board?

MR. WILKIE: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And have been for how long?

MR. WILKIE: Since last February.

MR. WOLF: Were you connected with them before that?

MR. WILKIE: No connection whatsoever.

MR. WOLF: What wards are covered by your district?

MR. WILKIE: Twenty-second ward.

MR. WOLF: Only the Twenty-second Ward?

MR. WILKIE: Only the Twenty-second Ward.

MR. WOLF: Will you please tell us the composition of your board, who are on the board?

MR. WILKIE: Myself, as president; William E. Murphy, Vice-president; Walter Bowditch, treasurer; Thomas J. Finn, Secretary; Directors, William H. Coupe, Charles Still, Jr., Pringle Borthwick, Matthew Adam and Charles C. Russell, nine of us.

MR. WOLF: Where is your poor house?

MR. WILKIE: Rittenhouse and Pulaski Avenue.

MR. WOLF: How much ground have you?

MR. WILKIE: I guess about twelve acres.

MR. WOLF: What do you suppose the value of the property is?

MR. WILKIE: When we sent a report to the State Board of Charity it was \$150,000.

MR. WOLF: And that is a fair value?

MR. WILKIE: A fair value; it may bring more and it might bring less.

MR. WOLF: Your work consists, I suppose, of relief in the poor house and outside?

MR. WILKIE: Yes, both.

MR. WOLF: How is your outside work conducted?

MR. WILKIE: In nine parts, we have nine districts and each director has a district and a director investigates every case of the outdoor relief as it comes in to him and he goes and sees that everything is all right before he gives any relief, and we only give relief when that slip is filled out. (Paper indicated).

MR. WOLF: In other words, you file an order?

MR. WILKIE: They file a form of application before the relief is given.

MR. WOLF: And on the strength of that form or application you investigate it?

MR. WILKIE: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And you give an order?

MR. WILKIE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR McCONNELL: On whom?

MR. WILKIE: On the merchants in the neighborhood in the district.

MR. WOLF: And those orders are presented and approved at your meetings?

MR. WILKIE: At the monthly meetings by the Committee on Accounts.

MR. WOLF: How about admissions to the poor house?

MR. WILKIE: That is all the same, it has to be filled up—that is an application—and the order given.

MR. WOLF: Do you know what proportion of your money is spent for indoor relief and what proportion for outdoor?

MR. WILKIE: No, I haven't gone so deep into that.

MR. WOLF: Is there any limitation put on the amount of the orders which may be given by any particular director?

MR. WILKIE: No, sir; there is no limitation. A director is supposed to use discretion and not to use too much money, for we have to stay within our income.

MR. WOLF: Do you have bidding at the beginning of the year for the supplies?

MR. WILKIE: Generally the merchants send you in bids so that you can choose the best out of them.

MR. WOLF: Do you have competitive bids?

MR. WILKIE: Yes, and every alteration and everything that is done on the place is done by bids.

MR. WOLF: But you don't have bids for the supply of your outside relief?

MR. WILKIE: No, sir; we could hardly get a bid for a dollar or anything of that kind when it is a case of extreme distress, and when they get to the point that they need food and groceries we give it to them.

MR. WOLF: How do you collect your taxes?

MR. WILKIE: Why, we have to give a tax collector five per cent. on the amount collected.

MR. WOLF: And the delinquent tax collector?

MR. WILKIE: The collector collects five per cent. on the taxes.

MR. WOLF: And how about the delinquents?

MR. WILKIE: He collects the delinquent and gets twenty-five per cent. but we have a penalty of forty per cent. on all delinquents.

MR. WOLF: You are sure that the tax collector gets five per cent?

MR. WILKIE: He gets seven.

MR. WOLF: Is that rate variable or fixed?

MR. WILKIE: The same this year as it was last year.

MR. WOLF: How do you know what the assessed value is on which the tax is collected?

MR. WILKIE: We prepare a book and compare it with the book in the City Hall, and that is where we get our information; the assessors fix the valuation and the tax collector has to have an office where it is convenient to receive the taxes, and he pays everything out of that percentage—he rents his own office and everything.

SENATOR VARE: He rents his own building and pays everything himself?

MR. WILKIE: Yes.

SENATOR VARE: You are elected for one year?

MR. WILKIE: Three years.

SENATOR McCONNELL: You are elected president for one year?

MR. WILKIE: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: But a director for three years?

MR. WILKIE: For three years.

(Mr. Wilkie was thereupon excused and retired).

WALTER BOWDITCH, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. BOWDITCH: 423 High Street, Germantown.

MR. WOLF: You are the treasurer of the Germantown Poor Board?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And have been so since when?

MR. BOWDITCH: Since last February.

MR. WOLF: The financial management of the institution is under your supervision?

MR. BOWDITCH: I just keep a book of each fund as it comes in.

MR. WOLF: How far back does that record go?

MR. BOWDITCH: About three years, but that is only for my term that I know about.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Bowditch, you heard what Mr. Wilkie said about the collection of your taxes?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Can you add anything to that?

MR. BOWDITCH: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: How much does it cost you to collect your tax in round figures?

MR. BOWDITCH: That is something I couldn't tell you.

SENATOR VARE: Something about two thousand dollars a year I think it is.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are obligatory?

MR. BOWDITCH: In what way?

THE CHAIRMAN: They have to be paid?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, but there are some that you couldn't lien them.

THE CHAIRMAN: About ninety per cent. of your taxes comes in voluntarily?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir. This new tax collector has an office where it is convenient for people to come, and he takes out of his pocket stamped envelopes, and from this on if he is tax collector there will be very little delinquency.

SENATOR VARE: This tax collector furnishes the people with an office where they can go and pay their taxes in the heart of Germantown on the Main Street.

THE CHAIRMAN: But it strikes me as being rather an excessive charge. I don't think so much of the five per cent. as I do of the twenty-five per cent. because it is an awful rate to pay.

MR. BOWDITCH: Answering that question, we have paid five per cent. once when the Republican Organization lost control of the Board, we then had the City party and the tax was lowered on the collection of the tax to five per cent. and it was raised again to seven per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN: Before they won out?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then that doesn't practically demonstrate anything.

MR. FRIEL: Assuming that a property is worth about two thousand dollars, which would be about the average run, and that the amount of the tax would be one dollar, now supposing the tax collector has several hundreds of those to collect, you can just imagine how often he has to go back to that place for the purpose of collecting one dollar, and he makes twenty-five per cent. on that.

SENATOR McCONNELL: Do you add a penalty?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir; forty per cent.

SENATOR VARE: Who is the delinquent tax collector?

MR. BOWDITCH: D. J. McCarthy.

SENATOR VARE: What business has he?

MR. BOWDITCH: I believe that is all he does at the present time. He was a milkman.

MR. WOLFE: What is the name of the present tax collector?

MR. BOWDITCH: Thomas F. Watson, Haines Street and Germantown Avenue.

MR. WOLF: You furnish a bond?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: In what amount?

MR. BOWDITCH: Twenty-five hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: You are sure it is approved by the Board?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Are any of the directors paid a salary?

MR. BOWDITCH: I get a salary as treasurer.

MR. WOLF: What is the salary?

MR. BOWDITCH: One hundred and fifty dollars.

MR. WOLF: A year?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: In what name is the fund deposited?

MR. BOWDITCH: In the name of the Managers for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the township of Germantown, in the Germantown National Bank.

(Mr. Bowditch submits for the information of the Committee a printed pamphlet of the Managers for the Relief and Employment of the poor of the township of Germantown, for the year 1909, and marked "Exhibit No. 3," for identification).

MR. WOLF: From how many pieces of property is your tax collected?

MR. BOWDITCH: From forty thousand pieces of property.

MR. WOLF: You publish a printed statement of your financial transactions during the year?

MR. BOWDITCH: Yes, I think it is in the book. (Indicating.)

MR. WOLF: This is the book for 1909, is that correct?

MR. BOWDITCH: So far as I know, yes, that is correct.

MR. WOLF: Has the statement for 1910 been prepared yet?

MR. BOWDITCH: Not yet.

MR. WOLF: When are the books audited for the purpose of preparing that statement?

MR. BOWDITCH: In February.

MR. WOLF: Have you worked out any figures which will show the average cost per inmate for support.

MR. BOWDITCH: You will see that in that report to the State Board of Charity.

SENATOR JAMES: Who appoints the auditors and how do you audit and settle your accounts?

MR. FRIEL: There is an act of Assembly providing for the method by which the auditors are elected and the duties are defined by the Act of 1905, and there were two acts, one an act to make the Acts of Assembly relating to the auditors to apply to incorporated poor districts, and therefore the Act of Assembly, which you will find on page 392, applies to this, and you can see just how comprehensive and thorough an audit must be to comply with that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Were you the treasurer of this board when there was a bill up at Harrisburg two years ago, which was introduced to abolish the poor house?

MR. BOWDITCH: No, sir; at that time I was in Jamaica and I wasn't the treasurer at that time to the best of my knowledge.

THE CHAIRMAN: You were not?

MR. BOWDITCH: No, sir; I wasn't. I was preceding that.

(Mr. Bowditch was thereupon excused and retired).

JAMES J. FINN, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. FINN: 340 East Armat Street, Germantown.

MR. WOLF: You are the secretary of the Germantown Poor Board?

MR. FINN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And have been since when?

MR. FINN: February, 1910,

MR. WOLF: You are also one of the directors of that board?

MR. FINN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: You keep the minutes of the meetings?

MR. FINN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: In a minute book?

MR. FINN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Have you got it here?

MR. FINN: No, sir; because I did not understand that you would want it, but I will deliver it at any place you want.

MR. WOLF: That contains a correct account of the meetings?

MR. FINN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And it runs back from what time?

MR. FINN: For years, but of course from February, 1910, is my beginning.

SENATOR VARE: That is the book you have on the table up there?

MR. FINN: Yes, sir.

SENATOR McCONNELL: Who was secretary of the Board in 1909?

MR. FINN: S. Mendelson Meehan.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who was counsel of the Poor Board in 1908?

MR. FINN: Paul Reilly.

MR. WOLF: How often does your board meet?

MR. FINN: The last Wednesday of the month.

MR. WOLF: Where?

MR. FINN: At the poor house, located at the corner of Rittenhouse Street and Pulaski Avenue. Our system of account is very

clear, all bills coming in are gone over by the Committee on Accounts, and from that they reach the secretary, and the secretary draws an order, and the order countersigned by the president and returned to the treasurer, and then the treasurer issues the check.

(Mr. Finn was thereupon excused and retired).

JAHN F. RAUSENBERGER, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: You reside at and are the superintendent of the Germantown Poor House?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Where is it located?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Rittenhouse and Pulaski Avenue, Germantown.

MR. WOLF: Give us a general description of the house itself?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Well, the house is a three-story building facing the north with a wing on each end, one for the men and one for the women.

MR. WOLF: How old is the house?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: The original building was built in '63 and the addition was built in '83.

MR. WOLF: How many acres of land have you?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: About twelve acres.

MR. WOLF: For how many have you accommodations?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: We could accommodate one hundred and fifty inmates, and I should say ninety men and sixty women.

MR. WOLF: How many have you now?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Seventy-two. Forty-seven men and twenty-three women and two children.

MR. WOLF: Have you at any time had more than that?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes.

MR. WOLF: What is the maximum?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: The largest number was about five or six years ago. That winter there was one hundred and thirty-five, but from that time to the present it has simply dwindled down to the present number, seventy-two.

MR. WOLF: Has there ever been less than seventy-two?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What is the minimum?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: I should say sixty-eight.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been superintendent?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Ten years.

MR. WOLF: What is your salary?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: One thousand dollars a year.

MR. WOLF: Have you a matron?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What is her salary?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Three hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: What is the average age of your inmates?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: I should say about sixty-five.

MR. WOLF: Men and women?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What proportion of the men are capable of doing any work?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: If you would ask them, not any, to be candid with you.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many can you coax to work out of what you have?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Senator, about a dozen.

MR. WOLF: What can they do?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Weed the garden and pick up truck.

MR. WOLF: Do you raise any quantity of vegetables Mr. Rausenberger?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: All the vegetables we use, with the exception of potatoes, we buy our potatoes.

MR. WOLF: Is there any other work than the gardening that the men can do?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Choop wood or white wash, or clean around, or anything that we can get them to do.

MR. WOLF: How about the women?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: They are generally unable to do anything?

SENATOR McCONNELL: They are generally too old?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Do the relatives of any of your inmates contribute to their support?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: I know of only one.

MR. WOLF: Do you sell any of your produce?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: In your experience as superintendent of the poor house don't you find that after they get in there that they try to get away from them—the relatives?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, children will desert parents and parents desert children.

THE CHAIRMAN: Don't you think in your opinion, as the superintendent of a poor house of this kind, that some measure should be adopted to compel these people to care for their parents?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir; we have laws for that, but it doesn't seem to help in the matter at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are laws, but do you think the laws are far-reaching enough?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: No, sir; they are not. There are certain influences brought to bear that you drop it; it is a hard question to solve.

SENATOR JAMES: As a matter of fact, when a man enters a poor house doesn't it create a wonderful change in him and doesn't he lose all ambition to work?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR JAMES: And even if he is strong enough doesn't he say that he is not fit to work and quit?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: And a man will give up quicker than a woman?

MR. RAUSENBERGER: Yes, sir; every time, and a woman can find employment and wipe dishes and pare potatoes, and answer the door bells; and a man, if you get him to sift ashes, and do all he can do in a half an hour, that is all he will want to do.

(Mr. Rausenberger was thereupon excused and retired).

Adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF PENN-
SYLVANIA.

(Poor Board Investigation).

Philadelphia, Pa., January 10th, 1911.

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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF PENN-
SYLVANIA, APPOINTED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION OF
APRIL 5th, 1909.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 10th, 1911.

Meeting held at the office of the Chairman, Hon. Clarence Wolf, Empire Building, Thirteenth and Walnut Streets, at 2 o'clock P. M. Tuesday afternoon on the above date pursuant to call.

PRESENT:

HON. CLARENCE WOLF, Philadelphia, Chairman,
HON. EDWARD F. JAMES, Hazleton, Pennsylvania.
HON. WILLIAM C. McCONNELL, Shamokin, Pennsylvania,
HON. MILES C. ROWLAND, Rowland, Pennsylvania,
ASA RUTE, Sergeant-at-Arms, Hazleton, Pennsylvania,
MORRIS WOLF, ESQ., Counsel for the Committee.
MR. ELMER SCHLICHTER, Secretary, Philadelphia.

OF GERMANTOWN POOR BOARD.

JAMES F. FRIEL,
PRINGLE BORTHWICK,
S. MENDELSON MEEHAN,
PAUL REILLY.

OF ROXBOROUGH POOR BOARD:

HARRY A. MARKLEY, Treasurer,
GEORGE C. BOWKER, ESQ., Solicitor.
HENRY K. FRIES, ESQ., Solicitor, Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board.
DR. JOSEPH S. NEFF, Director of Bureau of Health and Charities,
DR. HENRY SYKES, Chief Resident Physician, Philadelphia, General Hospital,
MR. WALTER B. BEDLOE, Chief Clerk, Bureau of Health and Charities,
MR. SAMUEL LOUGHLIN, Superintendent, Bureau of Health and Charities,
MR. BROMLEY WHARTON, Secretary State Board of Charities;
MR. JAMES F. MORRISON, Chief Clerk, Receiver of Taxes.

Meeting called to order by the Chairman.

HARRY A. MARKLEY, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. MARKLEY: Manatawua Avenue, Roxborough.

MR. WOLF: You are the treasurer of the Roxborough Poor board?

MR. MARKLEY: I am.

MR. WOLF: And have been so for how long?

MR. MARKLEY: Six or seven years.

MR. WOLF: Did you bring with you the books of account of the directors?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, I have the books. (Books produced).

MR. WOLF: It has on the back of the book "Treasurer's Report No. 2, Overseers of the Poor of Roxborough," is that correct?

MR. MARKLEY: That is correct.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Markley, how long have you been treasurer?

MR. MARKLEY: I will have to refer to the book and tell you. (Referring to the book) Since February, 1907.

MR. WOLF: Have you a bond?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: You are not under bond?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir; never.

MR. WOLF: In what bank do you deposit the funds of the poor?

MR. MARKLEY: Manayunk Bank, and we have eight thousand dollars in the Manayunk Trust Company in the form of certificates if you wish to see them. (Papers produced and handed to the Chairman).

MR. WOLF: What interest do you get?

MR. MARKLEY: Three and a half per cent. Two bonds for four thousand dollars each.

SENATOR JAMES: You mean you have a surplus of eight thousand dollars that you keep there.

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you receive what rate of interest?

MR. MARKLEY: Three and a half per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have been receiving that three and a half per cent. right along?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, ever since I have been there.

MR. WOLF: Will you tell me what the salary of the president was in 1907 and 1908?

MR. MARKLEY: Fifty dollars I rather think it was.

MR. WOLF: You can ascertain it by referring to the book, can't you?

MR. MARKLEY: (Referring to book) fifty dollars, yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What was the salary of the treasurer in the same year—your own salary?

MR. MARKLEY: One hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: That was for 1907 and 1908?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What was the president's salary in 1908 and 1909?

MR. MARKLEY: One hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: And your salary was how much?

MR. MARKLEY: Raised to one hundred and fifty dollars in 1909-1910.

MR. WOLF: Was there any authority for raising this salary?

MR. MARKLEY: No more than the authority of the Overseers, that was the only authority for raising them.

MR. WOLF: Was there any resolution?

MR. MARKLEY: Sure I think so, they are in that book, or should be at least.

MR. WOLF: Will you look in your account for October 21st, 1909, and tell me what the item of traveling expense \$125.00 is?

MR. MARKLEY: One hundred and twenty-five dollars traveling expense.

MR. WOLF: What was that for?

MR. MARKLEY: Traveling to attend the convention at Bradford.

MR. WOLF: You are sure that is what that is for? Wasn't there a separate payment for that—for attending the convention.

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir; I don't remember at all.

MR. WOLF: Will you turn to October 9th, 1909, and explain to me what the item "extra expenses and outside relief, \$275.00" is?

MR. MARKLEY: That was spent in outside relief.

MR. WOLF: You have no further itemization of it than that?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: You can't give me any further information as to what it covered?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir; I can't.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, do you know whether outside relief was ever covered at any other period by a general appropriation of that kind?

MR. MARKLEY: No, I don't know.

MR. WOLF: Turn to your account of December, 1909, all your ordinary outside relief expenses are there, are they not?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: So this must have been an extraordinary expense of some kind?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes.

MR. WOLF: And at this time you don't remember what it is?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir; I don't remember it at all.

MR. WOLF: On August 11th, 1910, there is a further entry "outside relief charities \$125.00," have you any idea what that was?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, that was for relief expended through the lower part of Roxborough by our president.

MR. WOLF: What is the president's name?

MR. MARKLEY: Nathan L. Jones.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember any other time when outside relief was covered by a general appropriation like that during that year?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: That was not your usual method of doing it?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir; that was allowed for the purpose of extending relief to certain parties in the lower end of the ward.

MR. WOLF: Did you get any account from him in the way in which he expended it?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Will you turn to September 8th, 1910, and look at the item "traveling expenses \$150.00" and tell me what that is?

MR. MARKLEY: Traveling expenses to Williamsport and what we spent there.

MR. WOLF: Is there any itemization of that?

MR. MARKLEY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Do you know whether that was approved in advance?

(Question withdrawn).

MR. BOWKER: That was at the convention in Williamsport?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: What is your business?

MR. MARKLEY: Purveyor in the Bureau of Water.

MR. WOLF: Are you any relation of John Markley?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes.

MR. WOLF: What?

MR. MARKLEY: His son.

MR. WOLF: Your Poor Board bought supplies of John Markley?

MR. MARKLEY: Yes, but I am not interested in it in any way, shape or form.

MR. WOLF: Did you keep any vouchers for your expenses other than of what you paid out?

MR. MARKLEY: I paid nothing out only by orders.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the only orders that you have no vouchers for—?

MR. MARKLEY: (interrupting) No, I don't say that I have an order for everything I paid out.

(Mr. Markley was thereupon excused and retired).

S. MENDELSON MEEHAN, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Mr. Meehan, I show you a book marked "Minute Book Managers of the Poor, Germantown, 1902," and ask whether that was the book in which you kept the minutes of the Poor Board of Germantown during the time in which you were secretary?

MR. MEEHAN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: I suppose that the record herein contained is a correct statement of what was done at the meetings?

MR. MEEHAN: To the best of my knowledge and belief.

MR. WOLF: I turn to the meeting headed "Germantown, February 24th, 1909," and read this: "The solicitor suggested the appointment of a committee for the consideration of the subject of the movement to abolish the poor districts. Mr. Borthwick moved that a committee of five be appointed for this purpose. Carried. The president named the following committee, Borthwick, Russel, Dirvin, Meehan and Still," and ask whether that is correct?

MR. MEEHAN: I believe so.

MR. WOLF: You were a director of the poor at this time?

MR. MEEHAN: A manager.

MR. WOLF: Elected as such when?

MR. MEEHAN: 1907, my three years' term expired February, 1909.

MR. WOLF: I show you a sentence at the conclusion of the minutes of February 24th, 1909, as follows: "See minutes of special meetings March 21-23 following those of March 31," and ask whether that is in your handwriting?

MR. MEEHAN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: I show you in the minutes of March 31st, 1909, an entry under the head of expenditures "Paul Reilly, Harrisburg expenses, extra ord, \$800.00, ditto, ditto, ditto, \$50.00", and above the word Harrisburg "traveling" crossed out, and ask whether that expenditure was approved at that meeting?

MR. MEEHAN: I believe so.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember why you crossed out the word "traveling"?

MR. MEEHAN: I believe because there were other expenses incidental to that apart from railroad fares.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember whether any statement was presented to you of the way in which the money was expended?

MR. MEEHAN: I don't recall.

MR. WOLF: I now show you the minutes of the meeting of March 21st, 1909, on the margin of which are the words "out of position, see previous minutes for date", and ask how it happened that the minutes of March 21st appear after the minutes of March 31st?

MR. MEEHAN: Some of those minutes were entered by some one acting as my secretary. I think it was merely a mistake not getting that into the natural order.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember the meeting of March 31st, 1909?

MR. MEEHAN: I don't remember it by date.

MR. WOLF: This is in your handwriting? (Book shown to Mr. Meehan).

MR. MEEHAN: No.

MR. WOLF: In whose handwriting is that?

MR. MEEHAN: Some one acting for me, but this date is mine.

MR. WOLF: Were you present at the meeting when this resolution was passed: "Upon motion it was resolved that the treasurer is directed to pay to Paul Reilly, Solicitor, eight hundred dollars, expenses in the matter of protest against bills to abolish this corporation, and the president and the secretary of the meeting are directed to issue the necessary order for payment to the treasurer. On motion, resolved that the board go to Harrisburg in a body on Tuesday March

23rd, 1909, to attend hearing before Senate Committee to protest against bills to abolish this corporation," were you present at that meeting?

MR. MEEHAN: I believe not.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember whether there was such a meeting?

MR. MEEHAN: No.

MR. WOLF: Did you go to Harrisburg on March 23rd?

MR. MEEHAN: Not with the body, I came there from another direction on my own business.

MR. WOLF: Were the other directors there?

MR. MEEHAN: Some of them there.

MR. WOLF: Was Mr. Still there?

MR. MEEHAN: I haven't any personal recollection but I think he was.

MR. WOLF: Was Mr. Borthwick.

MR. MEEHAN: I don't remember.

MR. WOLF: Was Mr. Pullinger?

MR. MEEHAN: I think so. I was there for such a short time that I did not have opportunity to mingle with most of the people.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Adams, do you remember if he was there?

MR. MEEHAN: I can't recall.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember whether Mr. Dirvin was there?

MR. MEEHAN: No.

MR. WOLF: Or Mr. Coupe?

MR. MEEHAN: I don't recall.

MR. WOLF: As secretary it was your duty to send out notices of special meetings, was it not?

MR. MEEHAN: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember sending out notices of the special meetings of March 21st and 23rd?

MR. MEEHAN: I don't recall.

MR. WOLF: Were you present at the meeting of March 23rd to the best of your recollection?

MR. MEEHAN: I don't remember it by date.

MR. WOLF: Nor at the meeting at which it was resolved to borrow ten thousand dollars and at which it was resolved to pay Paul Reilly, Solicitor, fifty dollars, expenses of protest against pending legislation?

MR. MEEHAN: I don't think I was there. I always acted as secretary when I was there in that capacity.

(Mr. Meehan was thereupon excused and retired).

PRINGLE BORTHWICK, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your address?

MR. BORTHWICK: 8018 Germantown Avenue.

MR. WOLF: You were treasurer of the Germantown Poor Board from what time to what time?

MR. BORTHWICK: From February, 1909, to February, 1910.

MR. WOLF: Were you present at the meeting at which it was resolved to pay Mr. Reilly eight hundred and fifty dollars for his expenses at Harrisburg?

MR. BORTHWICK: I was present at the meeting, I think it was eight hundred dollars the first time.

MR. WOLF: You voted for that?

MR. BORTHWICK: I did.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember whether any statement was presented as to the purpose for which this eight hundred dollars had been spent?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, the order was drawn for the money, because it was really spent to be drawn in favor of Mr. Reilly to pay the expenses of the delegation to go to Harrisburg.

MR. WOLF: Was any statement ever rendered at the meeting to your recollection showing the way in which the eight hundred dollars was spent?

MR. BORTHWICK: I couldn't say positively whether there was or not. There was a statement rendered and there was some money refunded, not a very great amount, but there was some.

MR. WOLF: How much, can you tell?

MR. BORTHWICK: I couldn't tell you, but I recollect entering it in the books, something.

MR. WOLF: Did you go to Harrisburg on March 23rd?

MR. BORTHWICK: I did.

MR. WOLF: Which other members of the committee do you remember being there?

MR. BORTHWICK: Mr. Pullinger, Mr. Coupe, Mr. Adams, Mr. Still, Mr. Russell, Mr. Dirvin and Mr. Meehan was there for a short while, but he didn't go along with the others.

MR. WOLF: How long did you stay there, do you remember?

MR. BORTHWICK: I was there the entire day, that is, from the time the train got to Harrisburg until we left in the evening.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you have a special train?

MR. BORTHWICK: I think it was a special train, I think it was because there seemed to be all the people from our neighborhood that was on it.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember what you did when you got home from there? Did you go home?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes; we got home quite early.

MR. WOLF: Did you have a meeting then?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes; we had a meeting at the poor house before we went home.

MR. WOLF: And at that meeting was it resolved to borrow ten thousand dollars?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Were you in debt at this time?

MR. BORTHWICK: I don't know that we were really in debt, but before the following meeting came around we would be in debt, there were several odd bills coming due.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember a meeting which was held two days before that at which a resolution was passed to pay Mr. Reilly eight hundred dollars expenses?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, I remember that.

MR. WOLF: Was that meeting held in the evening?

MR. BORTHWICK: It was in the evening.

MR. WOLF: Were notices sent out of it?

MR. BORTHWICK: I think so. Nearly all the meetings were called by special notice.

MR. WOLF: You voted in favor of the resolution of March 21st, to pay Mr. Reilly the eight hundred dollars expenses?

MR. BORTHWICK: I did.

MR. WOLF: And do you remember whether any itemized account was ever given of the purpose for which the eight hundred dollars was spent?

MR. BORTHWICK: I can't remember of any itemized account, no, sir.

MR. WOLF: Later that year some of your members went to the State Convention at Bradford, did they not?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember what you paid for that convention?

MR. BORTHWICK: I think it was three hundred dollars.

MR. WOLF: That you charged as traveling expenses?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, sir; traveling expenses.

MR. WOLF: Did you prepare the report which was presented January 1st, 1910—the treasurer's report?

MR. BORTHWICK: I don't think I did.

MR. WOLF: You were the treasurer at that time?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, I was the treasurer.

MR. WOLF: I show you the report as stated in the minutes of January 26th, 1910, and ask if you will show me under what head the eight hundred dollars spent at Harrisburg is charged? (Book shown witness).

MR. BORTHWICK: I don't see it here.

MR. WOLF: It must be there some place on your book or your books wouldn't have balanced, is that correct?

MR. BORTHWICK: That is correct.

MR. WOLF: Look again and see if you can find any heading under which that payment was included.

MR. BORTHWICK: it may be under this "extraordinary expense."

MR. WOLF: What is the amount of that?

MR. BORTHWICK: \$11,773.24, but I would not be positive of that. I didn't make up that report and therefore I can't answer.

MR. WOLF: You were a manager of the poor in January, 1909?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Did you prepare the report that was presented to the meeting then?

MR. BORTHWICK: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Who prepared your reports?

MR. BORTHWICK: I think all those reports were prepared by the secretary.

SENATOR McCONNELL: You mean Mr. Meehan?

MR. BORTHWICK: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: According to the statement presented January 27th, 1909, the average weekly cost per capita of maintaining your inmates was \$2.32, do you remember whether that is correct or not?

MR. BORTHWICK: I believe that is correct.

MR. WOLF: Now on January 26th, 1910, one year later, the average weekly cost per capita is \$3.73, do you think that is correct?

MR. BORTHWICK: I believe that is correct.

MR. WOLF: Can you account for the fact that it increased about thirty-three and a third per cent?

MR. BORTHWICK: The only reason that I know of is the different secretaries in making up these reports they would put in items that another secretary would not consider a proper thing to have there, that is the only reason.

MR. WOLF: In other words, you think the cost per capita is a matter of book-keeping by the secretary?

MR. BORTHWICK: I think so.

MR. WOLF: Was Mr. Reilly present at those three meetings which I have referred to, the two special meetings and the one at which the payments were authorized?

MR. BORTHWICK: He was, yes, sir.

(Mr. Borthwick was thereupon excused and retired).

PAUL REILLY, called, affirmed by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. REILLY: 430 East Mount Airy avenue, Philadelphia.

MR. WOLF: You are an attorney and was solicitor for the Managers of the Poor Board of Germantown from what time to what time?

MR. REILLY: I can't recall just exactly the period when it commenced. I know that it closed in February, 1910. February three years, I think, previous to that.

MR. WOLF: Were you the solicitor at the time of the agitation about the abolition of the poor house?

MR. REILLY: I was.

MR. WOLF: And were you present at the meeting of March 31st, 1909, at which a payment of eight hundred and fifty dollars was ordered to be made to you for Harrisburg expenses?

MR. REILLY: I won't exactly say the date, but eight hundred and fifty dollars was paid to me by the Managers of the poor.

MR. WOLF: And you were present at the meeting at which that was authorized?

MR. REILLY: I was present at the meeting of March 31st, when the payment was first authorized of eight hundred dollars and at the other meeting where the ten thousand dollars was borrowed.

MR. WOLF: And the additional payment of fifty dollars?

MR. REILLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Did you render a statement to the Managers as to the way in which that money had been expended?

MR. REILLY: I didn't directly let them know just exactly what the money had been spent for, but at the time it was paid to me and the resolution was passed authorizing the payment it was paid to me on the basis that it was to be paid to me as a fee or compensation to conduct the objection, but I promised them nothing at all as to what I should use it for or anything, except for the general purpose of preventing the abolition of the almshouse.

MR. WOLF: In other words, it was practically paid to you without any restriction on you as to the use that you should make of it in that connection?

MR. REILLY: Except it should be used for the service of the corporation in preventing this legislation being passed, or of enforcing it if it was passed.

THE CHAIRMAN: But the eight hundred dollars was not paid to you for your own benefit?

MR. REILLY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: As a fee?

MR. REILLY: That was my compensation, without any obligation as to how I should use it. In other words, when the amount was paid to me there was no guarantee that I should take a delegation to Harrisburg. That money was my own to do whatsoever I pleased with it or to hold it in abeyance until some future action was necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: But actually the true purpose of the appropriation of that money was to have you to go to Harrisburg and present before the Senate Committee as strong a protest as it was possible for you to do, was not that the idea?

MR. REILLY: That was left to my discretion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Was it so generally understood?

MR. REILLY: The night this appropriation was made, I think it was March 31st, there was a meeting in Carnegie's Hall in Germantown of a business men's association or something of that sort and it was subsequent to that that we went to the almhouse and held the meeting where the eight hundred dollars was appropriated—I think it was Saturday—and at the time I gave them no assurance that I was going to use it for that purpose. However, the following day I did explain the purpose, having in the interim made arrangements with the Pennsylvania Railroad for several extra cars on one of their trains.

MR. WOLF: Then it was for expenses?

MR. REILLY: The eight hundred dollars was paid to me for my compensation, if I chose to use it that way or any other purposes of my own they couldn't complain anything about it, because there was no understanding beyond that.

MR. WOLF: Wasn't your compensation fixed at the time of your election for a definite sum?

MR. REILLY: They had an arrangement whereby they appropriated to the solicitor one hundred and fifty dollars a year, but while I was solicitor I spent more than one hundred and fifty dollars a year in doing things for them. I did not regard it at all as compensation for any extraordinary items that might come up out of the usual routine of business.

MR. WOLF: Did you at any subsequent meeting present a statement of the use to which you had put the eight hundred dollars?

MR. REILLY: No; I did not present a statement, but there was some small amount left of the money handed to me that I did not use fully for the purpose of protesting against this legislation, and then I received from quite a number of the men the amount of their fare to Harrisburg, and when I received it I remitted it to them and paid it to them.

MR. WOLF: We understand that at the time the money was paid to you, however, you were not limited in any way as to the use it was to be put to in the method of opposing the bills?

MR. REILLY: I simply receipted for it and told them that they should appropriate the money for protesting against it; I received it as such.

MR. WOLF: At that same meeting Mr. Reilly, it was "resolved that the board go to Harrisburg in a body on Tuesday, March 23rd, 1909, to attend hearing before Senate Committee to protest against bills to abolish this corporation?"

MR. REILLY: I think that is true, and it recalls to my mind that at the time they appropriated the eight hundred dollars the Managers did not have any expectation that they were going to be any payments by me out of that money, and that was supposed to be an entirely different thing.

MR. WOLF: And no appropriation was made for that?

MR. REILLY: Not at that time, no.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, did you pay the expenses in going as a body in attending the hearing?

MR. REILLY: I don't remember whether I did or not. So far as paying the expenses, I did not pay anything except the railroad fares.

MR. WOLF: On March 23rd, an additional payment of fifty dollars was authorized to you, was that in the same manner, without any statement as to the purpose?

MR. REILLY: I did not explain to them any more than I said it was expenses.

MR. WOLF: Didn't they want to know why eight hundred dollars wasn't sufficient?

MR. REILLY: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: It wasn't their own money?

MR. REILLY: Yes, it was.

MR. WOLF: How did you fix originally the eight hundred dollars?

MR. REILLY: I don't know just now how I fixed on eight hundred dollars, but the reason why I fixed on it was to take the delegation up there and I calculated on how big a delegation I had and how much for railroad fare, I just estimated it and that is what I really had in mind, but I did not tell them until the negotiations were done, but I will say that as far as the managers appropriating the money is concerned they did it absolutely on my advice. They were bothered about the thing and they came to me about it, and I told them that they were justified as they were the trustees of this corporation.

SENATOR McCONNELL: How was this sum of money actually spent?

MR. REILLY: It was actually expended for paying the fares of citizens of that particular district to take them to Harrisburg to appear before the committee.

MR. WOLF: In protesting?

MR. REILLY: Yes; it was only the money of the people who went there, they were the people who supported the institution.

MR. WOLF: The payment of carfare only?

MR. REILLY: The payment of carfare only.

(Mr. Reilly: was thereupon excused and retired).

BROMLEY WHARTON, Secretary and General Agent of the State Board of Charities, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. WHARTON: My residence is in Philadelphia, 2220 Locust street.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been the General Agent and Secretary of the Board of Charities?

MR. WHARTON: Since January, 1907.

MR. WOLF: Have your duties been such as to direct your attention to the district poor houses in Philadelphia in any way?

MR. WHARTON: Under the Act of 1869 it is my duty to visit them and under the Act of 1874 we have a board of women visitors who visit them oftener, and the Act of 1907 gives me two assistants and they go once a year.

MR. WOLF: Will you state to this Committee your thought regarding the advisability of continuing the existence of these poor houses, from the standpoint of economy and efficiency, or any other standpoint that you think is relevant thereto?

MR. WHARTON: Answering that by comparison, you will have to take my average weekly cost per capita and then take the general conditions as you find them. The only thought that I had about the matter was that the Germantown Poor House might very well be used for children from Blockley, that has often occurred to me. Here is a table that I will submit to the Committee. Blockley had one hundred and fifty-two children in September, 1910. Now Blockley is overcrowded and Germantown has fifty-nine adults, and I think if something could be worked out and the children separated it might be a very good thing. As far as the others are concerned, Roxborough is nothing more than a farm house and it had a capacity of fifteen on September 30th, 1910; Oxford and Lower Dublin has fifty-nine. So far as their physical condition is concerned, they are not in good physical condition. As to whether or not it would be cheaper I don't know, yet I think that it would be.

MR. WOLF: Do you think that there is any reason why the relief which is administered by these poor houses could not be administered equally well by the general almshouse?

MR. WHARTON: I think it could if the general almshouse had the room.

MR. WOLF: And if the children were taken from the general almshouse it would have the room?

MR. WHARTON: Really that should be done under the law.

THE CHAIRMAN: In the care of the poor at Blockley you not alone administer bed, clothing and food, but you also administer to their physical condition? In other words, if they get very sick you do not have to send them away from Blockley?

MR. WHARTON: Oh, no.

THE CHAIRMAN: Whereas at these institutions they have no hospital, is that true?

MR. WHARTON: That is true, to the best of my belief I don't think that there is a hospital and I don't think they have any hospital at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: And if a contagious disease should take place at any one of these poor houses they would have to send them away?

MR. WHARTON: They would have to be sent to the Municipal Hospital or something like that.

MR. WOLF: In your experience in the direction or supervision of poor people, can you suggest to the Committee any reason why district poor houses are an advantage over a general poor house?

MR. WHARTON: I don't think that they are, if the general poor house is properly conducted. I don't think it could be done as cheaply because you have a lot of people together and you can take care of a couple of thousand people cheaper than you can a couple of hundred. The only advantage that you have at Roxborough and Upper Dublin is that they are up in the country, and there are disadvantages to that. The last time I tried to go there it was a snowy day and it was very hard to get there. There are certain average cost per capita that I have, and I will submit the average cost per week of ten other counties. You will notice that Allegheny County at Woodville is a good deal higher than the pauper department in Philadelphia here and there we have had to figure the insane as well. They don't keep insane in the other county districts. I have taken some of the counties around Philadelphia and then I have taken some counties West, as you will find in the papers. The Act that I have referred to says that two or more counties can establish an industrial home for children, and so forth.

THE CHAIRMAN: What act is that?

MR. WHARTON: Act of June 18th, 1883 (P. L. 111).

MR. WOLF: Have you any printed reports?

MR. WHARTON: Yes; Pennsylvania Report of the Board of Public Charities and Committee on Lunacy, 1908.

MR. BOWKER: In estimating the cost of maintenance do you fix any value on the cost of the buildings and improvements in which they are housed?

MR. WHARTON: No; we take what is called maintenance.

MR. BOWKER: But you have tremendously expensive buildings and grounds, haven't you?

MR. WHARTON: Yes.

MR. BOWKER: And you have got to get the money either from the city or other sources to build, haven't you?

MR. WHARTON: Yes.

MR. BOWKER: What would the cost of maintenance be, the interest on that plus the other expense?

MR. WHARTON: As a state official we can't figure that out. We mean clothing and food, and in the statement which the Roxborough Poor House submits to the Board of Public Charities they include the following under their maintenance items: salaries, wages and labor including medical attendance, provisions and supplies, fuel and light, clothing including shoes, furniture and bedding and other dry goods, medicine and medical supplies, ordinary repairs, traveling expenses, incidental expenses.

MR. WOLF: And it is on the basis of these so-called maintenance items that you estimate the per capita cost?

MR. WHARTON: Yes.

MR. WOLF: You don't take into consideration, either in estimating for the poor houses or for the Philadelphia Hospital, any so-called poor charge?

MR. WHARTON: No, sir: that is the way we arrive at all of the state institutions as to what maintenance consists of.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, they don't charge interest on capital account?

MR. WHARTON: No, sir.

MR. BOWKER: As far as the maintenance is concerned I don't think that the surplus earned on the farm is deducted, because they are adding to that surplus ten thousand dollars.

MR. WHARTON: To get the cost per capita per week we divide the number of days, three hundred and sixty-five days, into the days of support, then divide that quotient into the total current expenses and divide the quotient by fifty-two weeks to get the cost per week.

MR. FRIEL: Is that based upon the number of inmates in the institution or upon the number of people that you are benefiting?

MR. WHARTON: We take the general number of inmates only.

MR. FRIEL: Not for maintenance expense at Norristown?

MR. WHARTON: No, sir.

MR. BOWKER: If the Committee approves I would like to submit a statement showing how our estimates are made up as corresponding with those made up by the State, because we have a lot of items in there which would materially reduce the cost of maintenance per week as compared with the Philadelphia Hospital.

MR. FRIEL: I should be glad also to have permission to do the same thing.

(Counsel for the poor houses of Roxborough and Germantown ask permission to submit statements showing their computation per capita cost of maintenance, which the Chairman of the Committee said that he would be very glad to receive).

(Mr. Wharton was thereupon excused and retired).

DR. JOSEPH S. NEFF, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: You are the Director of the Bureau of Health and Charities of Philadelphia?

DR. NEFF: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

DR. NEFF: 1914 Chestnut street I think is the number, the Aldine Hotel.

MR. WOLF: Are questions concerning the care of the indigent poor of Philadelphia within the jurisdiction of your department?

DR. NEFF: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Have you given any thought to the question of the relative advisability of the general almshouse and district almshouses as applied to this city?

DR. NEFF: About two years ago I did, not since.

MR. WOLF: State your general conclusions as to the applicability to Philadelphia.

DR. NEFF: I made a report to the Mayor of the year ending 1908, in which I formulated those opinions, and the result was that they are considered to be beneficial from the standpoint of the municipality that the city should care for its indigents under one department, and that was a matter of opinion, of course, and another matter of opinion was that it would do away with two separate classes of citizens as far as taxation was concerned.

MR. WOLF: You mean as to paying the taxes separately?

DR. NEFF: Yes; the tax payers are taxed in those districts one dollar and fifty cents less a certain number of cents and they have to collect for their own poor, and the other class of tax payers pay one dollar and fifty cents.

MR. WOLF: From an administrative standpoint are they of any advantage over a general poor house—the district poor houses—from the standpoint of administering the affairs of the poor people?

DR. NEFF: I think so.

MR. WOLF: You think there are advantages?

DR. NEFF: Advantages of administration to have the entire city under one head.

MR. WOLF: Have you changed in any way the views contained in the report to which you have referred?

DR. NEFF: I am of the same opinion yet.

MR. WOLF: Do you think the three district poor houses could be used by the city for any purpose other than the one for which they are now being used?

DR. NEFF: I do.

MR. WOLF: For what purpose?

DR. NEFF: I was not egotistical enough to mention in that report for what specific purposes the properties could be put to, but the city has use for all the ground it has and very much more ground than it now has, and if the city had the ground owned by the separate poor house boards I think the city could put them to good uses.

MR. WOLF: As a general almshouse under your jurisdiction?

DR. NEFF: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Is there any reason why the people cared for now in the district poor houses could not be cared for by the general almshouse?

DR. NEFF: None excepting crowding. I don't know how the people are kept there, but I presume they have more space per capita than we have in the city almshouse to-day. At this time it was supposed that a new building could be erected if an appropriation should be made, and if that money was used for the erection of a home for the indigent they would be as well cared for as anywhere else.

MR. WOLF: Do you think there are advantages in their care in the district houses which they could not have in a large enough general house?

DR. NEFF: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Do you think the fact that it is in a special neighborhood makes it more advantageous than to have them scattered?

DR. NEFF: Except air space, that is all. Of course, the more grounds you have for the inmates the better care you can give those inmates.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact have you at Blockley people who come from the districts in which these poor houses are located?

DR. NEFF: At the present time?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

DR. NEFF: I don't know of any. They would not be in there if I could help it. There are none in the almshouse proper.

MR. WOLF: Have you the right to refuse to admit people from those districts?

DR. NEFF: I think so, sir. That is a legal question, is it not?

MR. WOLF: What is your position?

DR. NEFF: My Position has been that the taxes raised in Germantown and elsewhere should be sufficient to take care of those people and that it is unfair to the general tax payers. There are peculiar

circumstances existing, but as a rule I would decline to admit to the almshouse in Philadelphia any cases belonging to those three territories.

MR. WOLF: There have been other territories than the three almshouses now existing?

DR. NEFF: I can only answer that question—you mean before the Act of 1854?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

DR. NEFF: I don't think so, but I am not prepared to answer that question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you hear the suggestion of Mr. Wharton in relation to the fact that it would be a good idea to take the children from the almshouse and place them in another place?

DR. NEFF: That would be an admirable idea.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are aware that the poor house of Germantown would hold upwards of two hundred and fifty? Would that take care of the children that you have at the almshouse?

DR. NEFF: We are not supposed to have any children at the almshouse at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: That you have at the almshouse at the present time I mean?

DR. NEFF: I think that in the almshouse proper I would say that I don't believe we have any children.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many in the Philadelphia Hospital?

DR. NEFF: One hundred and fifty to two hundred. We have to keep children and we have them in the hospital, that come in with their mothers, that are sick, but they are not in the almshouse.

THE CHAIRMAN: But you have one hundred and fifty to two hundred?

DR. NEFF: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: If those three houses were put under your jurisdiction and you were permitted to send there the poor from any district in Philadelphia could you use the three houses which are only about half full?

DR. NEFF: Yes, sir; very advantageously in my judgment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you have any difficulty in filling them?

DR. NEFF: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Have you figured out the cost of maintenance in the almshouse?

DR. NEFF: Take the figures for 1909, they are not separated in the different institutions. You mean the net figures?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

DR. NEFF: We have a little income at times. The net figures are different for males and females. We have figured one dollar and eighty-nine cents a week for males and two dollars and seventeen cents for females. Now the discrepancy is in the fact that we don't buy

coal for the males so that there is an error there; they are kept in a building belonging to the Commercial Museums and they buy the coal for heat, light and power in that building, and a fair figure would be two dollars and seventeen cents, and the city pays it but not through this department. We don't charge up repairs to the indigent wards; we charge everything, including repairs to the building, and we don't pay repairs to the Commercial building.

THE CHAIRMAN: But actually the cost would be about the same.

DR. NEFF: That would be about the same.

MR. WOLF: For the purpose of clarity, you might tell us just what buildings you have for the care of the different indigent people?

DR. NEFF: We have one large section called the Commercial Museums' building for the males and we have our own building for the females.

MR. WOLF: What do you call the buildings?

DR. NEFF: Blockley, that is the way it is commonly called.

MR. WOLF: Then the Philadelphia Almshouse is Blockley?

DR. NEFF: Well, Blockley is the nickname used for many years past covering all that property in West Philadelphia. We have the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane the Almshouse, and the Philadelphia General Hospital, and those three institutions are termed Blockley, and come under the Bureau of Charity.

MR. WOLF: But the hospital is not especially for the poor?

DR. NEFF: No, sir; nor the insane hospital either but the almshouse being in the same grounds it is called the almshouse hospital, which is a misnomer.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you any paid patients?

DR. NEFF: Very few.

SENATOR McCONNELL: You have a report for 1909?

DR. NEFF: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And the 1910 report is not ready yet?

DR. NEFF: No, sir; but it will be ready in about two weeks. I think those four pages will answer the purposes that you want.

MR. WOLF: What is the institution at Byberry?

DR. NEFF: That is an adjunct of this institution.

MR. WOLF: That does the same work?

DR. NEFF: We have an eight hundred and seventy-five acre farm and we use that as an overflow from the crowded condition in Philadelphia and some of the milder cases of insane are employed on the farm.

MR. WOLF: You could take care of all the people in these districts poor houses at Byberry if you had the buildings?

DR. NEFF: Yes, we could.

MR. WOLF: Has an appropriation been asked for?

DR. NEFF: We have \$696,000, for the building of the home for the almshouse.

MR. WOLF: Where would that be?

DR. NEFF: Any place but Byberry.

MR. WOLF: You think that you would have poor houses in outlying districts, for instance, as the Oxford and Lower Dublin?

DR. NEFF: No, sir. Perhaps I did not make myself clear, why I said not Byberry was because if that is to be the ultimate destination of the insane you don't want an almshouse there, because pauperism is the stigma of Philadelphia to-day.

(Dr Neff was thereupon excused and retired).

SAMUEL LOUGHLIN, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Administration Building, Thirty-fourth street below Pine, Philadelphia.

MR. WOLF: What is your position?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Superintendent of the Bureau of Charities.

MR. WOLF: You prepare the reports of the Bureau of Public Health and Charities so far as they concern the institutions?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Blockley, yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And the figures there (indicating) are correct to the best of your knowledge?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Correct; yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Have you a similar schedule for the year ending 1910, yet?

MR. LOUGHLIN: It is not completed.

MR. WOLF: When is it likely to be completed?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Possibly in ten or fifteen days, that depends when the Comptroller will do certain things in order to settle our accounts, they could be completed up to December 1st.

MR. WOLF: Will there be some material difference?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Well, there is a slight difference, a slight difference in population and expense, and a great difference in the increase of the amount of money received.

MR. WOLF: Is there any substantial difference in the average cost of maintenance?

MR. LOUGHLIN: It would be very slight and from what I understand it would run very close to 1909.

MR. WOLF: As the hospital for the indigent or almshouse?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Is the average cost likely to be the same?

MR. LOUGHLIN: The two previous ones are in connection with the whole institution.

MR. WOLF: Now, speaking of the cost of maintenance of the inmates made for the indigent, have you any reason to believe that the cost of maintenance is materially different from what it was last year?

MR. LOUGHLIN: There would be a slight difference, the increased cost of maintenance would be increased.

MR. WOLF: By reason of what?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Of wood, and so forth, that we supply.

MR. WOLF: When you prepare that statement will you give it to us?

MR. LOUGHLIN: Yes, sir.

(Mr. Loughlin was thereupon excused and retired).

JAMES F. MORRISON, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. MORRISON: 810 South Third street, Philadelphia.

MR. WOLF: What is your official position?

MR. MORRISON: Chief Clerk, Department of Receiver of Taxes.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been in the office of the Receiver of Taxes?

MR. MORRISON: Twenty years.

MR. WOLF: In what wards is the poor tax assessed separately from the rest of the city taxes?

MR. MORRISON: Twenty-second, Forty-second, Twenty-third, Thirty-fifth and Forty-first wards.

MR. WOLF: Will you state to the Committee whether or not that is an easy and economical method of collecting the poor tax?

MR. MORRISON: Very awkward.

MR. WOLF: Why?

MR. MORRISON: It makes certain divisions of the Receiver of Taxes. There is a poor tax collector in Germantown and one in Frankford, and, I think, perhaps elsewhere. We have no connection with them in any way at all, they make no report to the Receiver of Taxes.

MR. WOLF: Would it be easier for you to compute the amount of taxes due if it were all included in the one assessment?

MR. MORRISON: Very much easier. For instance, the city tax rate is one dollar and fifty cents, the suburban rate is one dollar per hundred valuation, and the farm rate is seventy-five cents; for the wards that I have just mentioned, the city rate is one dollar and forty-five cents, the suburban rate is ninety-six and two-thirds, and the farm rate is seventy-two and a half cents, and there is some little difficulty in mental arithmetic when you get into those things.

MR. WOLF: Does that necessitate extra collectors?

MR. MORRISON: I think it does. We seem to think that we have a most perfect system in the tax office. We have proved wards.

MR. WOLF: I suppose that there is an unnecessary expense in the keeping of the assessment books for one thing, is t there?

MR. MORRISON: I presume they have the same entry in the office of the Revision of Taxes in making up the books. The multiplication has to be made there in each district.

THE CHAIRMAN: It necessarily must be very difficult and throw a great deal of work on the Receiver of Taxes, having now six figures to figure instead of three?

MR. MORRISON: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: If the taxes in those wards were collected by the Receiver of Taxes as the other wards are, do you think it would cost you more to do than it does now?

MR. MORRISON: Yes, and in addition to that it would be a great relief to the tax payers.

SENATOR McCONNELL: In what way?

MR. MORRISON: For instance, a party owns a property in the Tenth Ward, one in the Twentieth, one in the Twenty-fifth, one in the Twenty-second and one in the Twenty-third, he pays most of the taxes to the Receiver of Taxes at the City Hall, but on those located in the wards where these poor boards are he has to pay the five, ten or fifteen cents to them, and if he should happen to go delinquent it costs him money.

THE CHAIRMAN: Forty per cent?

MR. MORRISON: Two hundred and forty per cent.

SENATOR McCONNELL: And it would not cost the city any more to cover those districts?

MR. MORRISON: I think it would cost less and it would minimize the work of the office in entering the bills.

MR. WOLF: In other words, you think that the Receiver of Taxes could collect the taxes without it costing any more than it does now?

MR. MORRISON: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And save what the collectors of taxes get in those wards?

MR. MORRISON: Providing the Board of Revision of Taxes would make the tax rate the same as in other wards. The Twenty-first ward has a different system and we collect the full rate there and then we divide it up with them.

MR. WOLF: That is Roxborough?

MR. MORRISON: Yes, sir; Councils make an appropriation yearly and the Comptroller approves the bill for the Overseers of the Poor of Roxborough, and councils make an appropriation of about forty-five to forty-six hundred dollars, and we draw a warrant and they go away happy, and in that way we collect the taxes of Roxborough and as I understand it, the Roxborough Poor House is only open to one part of the citizenship of that borough,

SENATOR McCONNEL: To a part only?

MR. MORRISON: Yes. A man living on the east side of the street may go to Roxborough Poor House, but the poor fellow on the west side must go to Blockley, because he is not in that district. I am under the impression that Leverington Street divides the thing, but I am not sure as to the dividing line, but that could be gotten from the books of the Roxborough people.

MR. WOLF: But in your mind it would be both economical and convenient to collect the poor tax by the city?

MR. MORRISON: Yes, and it would be of very great advantage to the tax payers. For instance, a tax payer lives at Chelton Avenue and Germantown Avenue, the poor tax collector is eighty hundred and something Chestnut Hill, he writes his check and sends it to us at one dollar and forty-five cents and then he must hunt up the other chap and send his taxes to him, and there is a very good salary attached to the tax collector of Germantown—it is worth about three or four thousand dollars a year.

(Mr. Morrison was thereupon excused and retired).

DR. HENRY SYKES, Chief Resident Physician, Philadelphia, General Hospital, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

DR. SYKES: I live at the Philadelphia Hospital.

MR. WOLF: Is the hospital the institution which takes care of the poor of Philadelphia?

DR. SYKES: I have nothing to do with the indigent except to supply medical attention. The home for the indigent is separate from the Philadelphia General Hospital, but we have an interne whose duty it is to visit the female department, and they go to both, and our indigent patients have a doctor to see them every day and they are on call in case one should be sick.

THE CHAIRMAN: You do that right from the hospital?

DR. SYKES: Yes, in case they are sick.

MR. WOLF: How far apart are they?

DR. SYKES: The women right in the same grounds and the men on the other side of the street.

MR. WOLF: One hundred yards away?

DR. SYKES: Not that far.

MR. WOLF: You have nothing to do with the conduct of the poor house?

DR. SYKES: Nothing except to supply the medical attention.

MR. WOLF: Do they require much medical attention?

DR. SYKES: Yes, we have quite a considerable amount of attention to give them. We have a doctor to go over there twice a week and he is over there for a day dressing different sores of these differ-

ent people. There is one thing that I want to tell you, we have to take these cases from the outlying districts whenever they get sick, and we get an order from the Board of Guardians from these districts and then they pay the Philadelphia Hospital to take care of them. In case of consumption or erysipelas we have to take care of them.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, all they do is to house the people of their districts when they are not sick?

DR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: And when the poor fellow gets any further he has to go into the Philadelphia General Hospital?

DR. SYKES: Yes.

(Dr. Sykes was thereupon excused and retired).

HENRY K. FRIES, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: What is your residence?

MR. FRIES: 1350 Orthodox Street, Frankford.

MR. WOLF: You are, I believe the solicitor for the Board of Poor Directors for Oxford and Lower Dublin?

MR. FRIES: Yes.

MR. WOLF: And have been so since when?

MR. FRIES: I don't recall disinctly, I should say about four or five years, perhaps longer, it has been for some time.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember the agitation in the early part of 1909 concerning the abolition of the poor houses?

MR. FRIES: Yes, sir; that is the last session of the Legislature?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

MR. FRIES: Yes, I do, very well.

MR. WOLF: Do you remember that a special meeting was called at the end of March, 1909, at the residence of Mr. Hoff at your request to consider ways and means for defeating that bill?

MR. FRIES: Yes, I know that a meeting was called, I don't know just at whose request it was called, but there was such a meeting to discuss what we should do in the matter?

MR. WOLF: Were you present?

MR. FRIES: Yes.

MR. WOLF: At that meeting a resolution was passed, was it not, ordering a payment of six hundred dollars, five hundred dollars to pay an attorney and one hundred dollars for general expenses pertaining to the protest against this bill?

MR. FRIES: That is my impression, I think those figures are right, and I would like to say that we called that meeting and there were several citizens members of the community, and the matter was discussed by such institutions as the Frankford and Twenty-Third Ward Business men and so on, and the community thought—as we

got the drift of their opinion—that in view of the fact that that was an old institution prior to the consolidation of 1854 and that the district had refused to go into the consolidation with the city unless we should be allowed to maintain certain institutions, and the provision of that act was that those institutions should never be abolished except by vote of that district, we felt that it was not only our duty but our privilege to take such appropriate steps to oppose such action by the Legislature within reason, and to state the result of that meeting to the Legislature. Mr. Bell was retained as counsel along with myself, and we did go to Harrisburg and we had to investigate the law and the different questions bearing upon the organization and the rights of these institutions, and there were various actions taken by counsel, and so on, in connection with that matter.

MR. WOLF: And do you remember whether or not the sum of five hundred dollars was paid to Mr. Bell?

MR. FRIES: That is my impression.

THE CHAIRMAN: How much more did it cost?

MR. WOLF: One hundred dollars for general expenses.

MR. FRIES: That was about the sum spent I think, but I have not looked at the figures for two years.

MR. WOLF: Had the matter been called to your attention by any one connected with the Poor District of Germantown?

MR. FRIES: I haven't any recollection of any thing of that kind.

(Mr. Fries asks permission of the Chairman to present on behalf of the Poor Directors of Oxford and Lower Dublin, a statement of the cost of maintenance of that institution, which permission the Chairman granted).

(Mr. Fries was thereupon excused and retired).

Adjourned to meet at the office of the Chairman, Wednesday, January 18th, 1911, at 2 P. M.

POOR BOARDS INVESTIGATION.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 18th, 1911.

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POOR BOARDS INVESTIGATION.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 18th, 1911.

Meeting held at the office of the Chairman, Hon. Clarence Wolf, Empire Building, Thirteenth and Walnut Streets, at 2 P. M., on the above date, pursuant to notice.

PRESENT:

HON. CLARENCE WOLF, Chairman,
 MORRIS WOLF, ESQ., Counsel for Committee,
 MR. ELMER SCHLICHTER, Secretary.

OF ROXBOROUGH POOR BOARD:

NATHAN L. JONES, President,
 GEORGE C. BOWKER, ESQ., Counsel.

OXFORD and LOWER DUBLIN POOR BOARD:

GEORGE K. HOFF, President,
 LINWOOD T. HOLME, Secretary,
 CASPAR M. TITUS, Director,
 FRANK J. MARTIN, Director,
 SAMUEL KELLY, Steward.
 HENHY K. FRIES, ESQ., Counsel.

GERMANTOWN POOR BOARD:

MATTHEW ADAM.

Meeting called to order at 2.10 P. M. by the Chairman.

LINWOOD T. HOLME, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: You were present at a meeting of the Board on March 31st, 1909, at which it was decided to appropriate six hundred dollars for opposing the bills to abolish poor houses at Harrisburg?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: You voted for that resolution?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: At that time, by the way, there was a deficit in your account, was there not?

MR. HOLME: That might have been, I can't recall.

MR. WOLF: What is your business?

MR. HOLME: I am in the grocery business.

MR. WOLF: Under what name?

MR. HOLME: Holme Brothers.

MR. WOLF: Anybody else in that business?

MR. HOLME: One brother.

MR. WOLF: What is his name?

MR. HOLME: Richard T.

MR. WOLF: Has Holme Brothers been supplying or furnishing supplies to your poor district?

MR. HOLME: Not by contract. When there is anything needed between boards in a small way they perhaps would call at my place and get it.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, have you any idea how much goods you sold to the poor board during the year of 1910?

MR. HOLME: I have not, no sir.

MR. WOLF: I will read you the statment of them according to the minutes, and ask whether, as far as you know, they are correct: January 20th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$85.50; February 1st, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$77.29; March 17th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$83.69; April 21st, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$69.16; May 19th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$62.87; June 16th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$59.76; July 21st, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$82.94; August 16th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$36.76; September 15th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$56.62; October 20th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$116.65; November 20th, 1910, Holme Brothers, \$97.20; December 15th, 1910, minutes incomplete. In each case these figures are marked for supplies, are they correct to the best of your knowledge?

MR. HOLME: To the best of my knowledge they are correct.

MR. WOLF: What was your position on the board during the time these supplies were furnished?

MR. HOLME: Secretary.

MR. WOLF: And this minute book from which I have read the figures is your record?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: During what period has Holme Brothers been supplying goods to the poor district—for how long?

MR. HOLME: More or less since I have been a member of the board.

MR. WOLF: In making up your appropriation for each meeting I see that according to the minutes a gross sum is given to each one of the directors, is that correct?

MR. HOLME: The Directors bring in a bill for all the goods supplied, that is to save work for the Secretary and Treasurer; the bills that are given to him are bunched together and a statement made up from it, and the total amount of it given to the Finance Committee for auditing, and if they find those bills correct they authorize an order drawn on the treasurer to pay those bills, and the order drawn is for a lump sum.

MR. WOLF: Are those bills kept?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Who has them?

MR. HOLME: I have them.

MR. WOLF: Are they entered on the books?

MR. HOLME: Yes, each one.

MR. WOLF: We will take the last minutes which you have complete, that of November 20th, 1910, I see, for instance—there that an order was drawn to you for \$413.28, one of the items of which is this: "Holme Brothers, relief, \$87.75", now where is there any further items?

MR. HOLME: The bill is itemized on the bunch of the bills that is given to the committee.

MR. WOLF: Is there any record kept of that bunch of bills?

MR. HOLME: I don't know exactly what you mean.

MR. WOLF: Is there any way in which you can tell what the \$87.75 is for?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

MR. WOLF: Where is that?

MR. HOLME: A bill presented at the meeting.

MR. WOLF: Who keeps the bill?

MR. HOLME: I do, as secretary.

MR. WOLF: Have you them here?

MR. HOLME: No, but the bills are pinned together and added up.

MR. WOLF: I understand then that when, for instance an order is made to pay Mr. Martin \$103.00 for the relief of Frankford that you have an itemized bill showing what the item is?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

MR. WOLF: And that you keep those bills?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

MR. WOLF: And that you have what it is for?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir; we heard that another institution did that so as to save trouble for making out an order for every little grocer or butcher that furnished things like that, and that director is responsible for that amount of money, and those bills are all tacked together in one bunch.

MR. WOLF: During the time that you were secretary your poor district borrowed money from A. C. Shallcross, is that correct?

MR. HOLME: He was authorized as treasurer to supply the money.

MR. WOLF: Well, on the 17th of June, 1907, I notice an entry that you paid notes of Mr. Shallcross amounting to about ten thousand dollars, was that money loaned by Mr. Shallcross?

MR. HOLME: That I couldn't say positively; he as treasurer furnished the money.

MR. WOLF: Do you know where he got it?

MR. HOLME: I couldn't exactly tell that, whether it was his own personal money, or whether the money of the Second National Bank. I don't know.

MR. WOLF: Did the board pay wages to the inmates of the poor house who did work there?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: How long has that been done?

MR. HOLME: I guess that has always been done.

MR. WOLF: Did you charge them for the cost of maintaining them?

MR. HOLME: No. The way that is done is if the steward thinks a certain man does work and does it faithfully, that he should receive a small compensation, and he pays him. I think the highest paid is one dollar a week.

MR. WOLF: During the year from April, 1909, to April, 1910, do you know whether your expenses were running over your income?

MR. HOLME: They may have been a little over, but one reason about that is that our money comes in at so irregular a time, and we have to take money at one time and then straighten up another.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, in the year from April 1st, 1909, to April 1st, 1910, your expenses were about five thousand dollars greater than your income, weren't they?

MR. HOLME: That I could not tell.

MR. WOLF: Will you look at the statement in your book and tell me.

MR. HOLME: (Referring to book). That seems to be wrong.

MR. WOLF: For the year ending April 15th, 1910, you received from land damages nineteen thousand dollars which you took in as a receipt?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: At the same time you paid off notes and mortgages amounting to \$12,831.79?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir; that is right.

MR. WOLF: The difference between them was extraordinary receipts, was it not, and that represented the balance between what you had gotten for your land and the notes you paid off?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: That amounts to about sixty-two hundred dollars?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: And at the end of the year your balance was \$1,231.31?

MR. HOLME: Yes.

MR. WOLF: In other words, about five thousand dollars less?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Five thousand dollars of the capital account was used in the maintenance, is that right?

MR. HOLME: That is the way it looks.

MR. WOLF: Is that correct?

MR. HOLME: I guess those figures are right, but not being an expert at figures I kept the account from month to month.

MR. WOLF: Do you have any religious discrimination at your home?

MR. HOLME: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Do you have any religious services?

MR. HOLME: Yes, twice a month.

MR. WOLF: For which the board has authorized a payment?

MR. HOLME: Of five dollars a month.

MR. WOLF: When are those services held?

MR. HOLME: I couldn't say whether it was the first or the middle.

MR. WOLF: On what day?

MR. HOLME: Sunday.

MR. WOLF: By whom?

MR. HOLME: We have a Baptist clergyman that comes twice a month.

MR. WOLF: Have you ever been present at the services?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Would you say that the services are entirely undenominational?

MR. HOLME: Entirely so, yes, sir. For instance, I went there one Sunday afternoon, and it was the date of the services and I stayed there.

(Mr. Fries, Counsel for the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board, requests permission to ask the witness a few questions, which permission was thereupon granted by the Chairman).

MR. FRIES: You have been asked about the deficiency for the year ending 1910, isn't it a fact that certain floating indebtedness was paid off in the year's expenses?

MR. HOLME: That I couldn't say, Mr. Fries, because it might be in this twelve thousand dollars or notes and mortgages.

MR. FRIES: Were they not certain special improvements made during that year?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir; we had a laundry put in which the steward thought it would be convenient to have, and I think that was during the year.

MR. FRIES: In the first place, I want to call your attention to the notes and mortgages, \$12,831.79, what does that item refer to, and explain to this committee the payment of that twelve thousand dollars during that year?

MR. HOLME: That was a note that we had been carrying for eighty-five hundred dollars, I can't tell the exact time, but there was a resolution passed by the board that we were to borrow four thousand dollars for improvements we put in, we put in a heating plant and that was eighteen hundred dollars; we put in electric lights—we used to use lamps—and we painted the institution, especially the outside, and that all came to twenty-eight hundred dollars, and we had only borrowed four thousand dollars, and twenty-eight hundred of that is included.

THE CHAIRMAN: However, that doesn't get away with the proposition of having received nineteen thousand dollars and paying off \$12,831.79, there is a difference between your surplus and the amount expended of pretty near five thousand dollars, and it doesn't make any difference what the improvements consisted of.

MR. FRIES: But that was a floating indebtedness that was created years before and was wiped out as soon as we found that we were in funds.

THE CHAIRMAN: But you want to show that the amount, between those two amounts, is the difference in the treasury of five thousand dollars, which you used during that year?

MR. FRIES: That item of credit of twelve thousand dollars showed that we had extraordinary expenses during that period.

THE CHAIRMAN: You must have run back five thousand dollars and have taken it out of the nineteen thousand dollars, and taken it out of your receipts?

MR. FRIES: That is true, but that doesn't show in the way of a floating indebtedness.

MR. FRIES: There is another question that I want to ask you. There is an item of \$7,233.40 paid to Norristown Hospital for insane patients, which is charged up to the Oxford and Lower Dublin Institution, doesn't that include more than a year's bill for that institution?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir; our bill is about four thousand dollars each year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then you actually was not showing a true balance the year before—you were carrying that along as an indebtedness?

MR. HOLME: Yes, sir.

MR. FRIES: Won't you explain the fact and the way the money comes into the institution? Do people pay evenly throughout the year, or almost altogether at the end of the year?

MR. HOLME: There may be no money paid during this month, and perhaps during the year may be two hundred dollars from the collectors, and during December, perhaps, we would get three thousand dollars, and I suppose at the next meeting there will be about four thousand dollars paid in.

MR. FRIES: So that during the year to get revenue to run the institution—how do you get your money?

MR. WOLF: We have gone over that already.

MR. FRIES: I beg pardon, I did not know that.

MR. WOLF: I see that you charge for the board of the insane and the Philadelphia Hospital a little over seventy-one hundred dollars, do you not?

MR. HOLME: I guess that is right.

MR. WOLF: I also see that that year you had a deficit of \$5.15, although you borrowed \$29,100, and paid only \$25,000, in other words, there was a deficit of over four thousand dollars, wasn't there?

MR. HOLME: That is right. Wouldn't that be what Mr. Fries spoke about going over from year to year, and then you must remember that that note was discounted many times.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact how long have you been running back each year?

MR. HOLME: Mr. Chairman, since the outside relief has gotten so heavy that has been our greatest trouble. It is the outside relief. We seem to think we must help the outside poor and it makes our bills count up, and if it wasn't for what we give outside we would have a much nicer financial statement.

(Mr. Holmes was thereupon excused and retired).

FRANK J. MARTIN. called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. MARTIN: 5000 Tacony Street.

MR. WOLF: You are a director of the poor board of Oxford and Lower Dublin?

MR. MARTIN: I am.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been such?

MR. MARTIN: One term of two years. I am now on my second term, previous to that I served two years, which is one term, and then I went from that into the school board for a couple of terms, and back into the poor board again.

MR. WOLF: What is your business?

MR. MARTIN: Grocer.

MR. WOLF: Have you supplied any groceries to the poor board?

MR. MARTIN: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: During how long a period?

MR. MARTIN: Well, perhaps a few times during the past six months as near as my memory serves me, that has been for a few things that the steward has asked me to furnish during the contract periods.

MR. WOLF: In September, according to the minute book, you supplied \$77.86 worth of supplies, and in October, \$38.12 worth, in November, \$98.17 worth, are those figures correct to the best of your information?

MR. MARTIN: I presume they are.

MR. WOLF: There was no concealment of the fact that you were supplying those things?

MR. MARTIN: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: Just to make it complete, in November you are said to have supplied \$41.58 worth of things, is that correct as far as you know?

MR. MARTIN: I presume it is.

MR. WOLF: How do your present directors at the meetings make the statement of the amount for which you desire a warrant? I see each meeting that you give a lump sum for what they call "relief", in what form do you present your bill for that?

MR. MARTIN: I present it in this way: I perhaps will give a number of orders on a coal merchant for relief for those who have no coal, the worthy poor that live in our district, and he presents his bill itemized, which he furnishes to me—a quarter of a ton to Mrs. So and So, giving the names and addresses, and then I have a list of the relief for groceries and food, which is rendered in the same way; Mrs. Smith one dollar, Mrs. Jones, two dollars, as the case may be.

MR. WOLF: And do you bring all those bills to the meetings?

MR. MARTIN: I give every one of those names and amounts, but not the items that each bill calls for.

(Mr. Martin was thereupon excused and retired).

CASPAR M. TITUS, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. TITUS: Tacony, 6944 Torresdale Avenue.

MR. WOLF: How long have you been a director of the Poor Board of Oxford and Lower Dublin?

MR. TITUS: I think about twelve years, as near as my memory serves me.

MR. WOLF: What is your business?

MR. TITUS: Blacksmith, horse shoer and wagon builder, and general repairer.

MR. WOLF: Have you done any work for the Poor Board?

MR. TITUS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: According to the minute book you were paid July 15th, 1909, \$25.80 for horse shoeing and wagon repair; on August 19th, 1909, \$4.00 for manure; on December 16, 1909, \$24.00 for wagon repairs; on September 15th, 1910, \$15.75 for shoeing, are those items correct?

MR. TITUS: I believe they are. They sound all right to me.

MR. WOLF: Were you a director of the board during the time that the bills were paid?

MR. TITUS: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: There was no concealment of the fact that you were doing the work?

MR. TITUS: None whatever. I am not the only man that does horse shoeing for the institution. I simply do what they have to have done in the case of an emergency, and in all it won't amount to more than eighty or ninety dollars a year.

(Mr. Titus was thereupon excused and retired).

SAMUEL KELLY, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: Will you please state the system that you use in paying the inmates of the home for work that they do, Mr. Kelly?

MR. KELLY: We only pay one, that is, a permanent position, the assistant cook, and one that takes care of the bed, and the barber, and just the ones that work steadily all the time, from two dollars a week to fifty cents. We have only seven people that we pay.

MR. WOLF: Then the maximum payment would be how much per week?

MR. KELLY: It would average about forty dollars a month.

MR. WOLF: Do you make any charge against those people for the cost of their maintenance?

MR. KELLY: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: How many are there who are paid?

MR. KELLY: Seven.

MR. WOLF: And those seven are supported entirely by the institution?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: They pay nothing for board or lodging?

MR. KELLY: No, sir; they are our own inmates.

MR. WOLF: What are the names of those who are on your roll and are paid, can you give them to me?

MR. KELLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: Who are they?

MR. KELLY: Charles Stoker, two dollars a week; James Kendrick, two dollars a week; Viola Jones, she gets two dollars a week; James Royal, the barber, one dollar a week; Mike Morgan, he looks after the heater and he gets one dollar a week, and the man who feeds the pigs, James Peak, he gets one dollar a week, and John Hague, fifty cents a week.

(Mr. Kelly was thereupon excused and retired).

GEORGE K. HOFF, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: Can you tell us anything about the transaction which resulted in Mr. Shallcross having notes amounting to ten thousand dollars?

MR. HOFF: Well, I think I can. I will give you a truthful statement. I have been in that board a great many years and ever since I have been in the board, as our attorney will tell you, there has been no penalty for not paying the taxes, and the first six or seven or eight months in the year if we do not borrow this money on notes we wouldn't have any money to pay out. That has been the course of procedure ever since I have been in the board. It was when I went there, and it has been carried on in that way years before I went into the board.

THE CHAIRMAN: You just use it to tide you over?

MR. HOFF: Yes, sir; and sometimes those notes had to be renewed until the latter part of the year when the money came in.

MR. WOLF: When you borrowed money, Mr. Hoff, did you borrow it from Mr. Shallcross personally? Was it Mr. Shallcross who loaned you the money?

MR. HOFF: The notes were drawn in favor of Mr. Shallcross.

MR. WOLF: What interest was paid on the notes?

MR. HOFF: It is right in the book. I think six per cent.

MR. WOLF: Has the institution been run at a loss as long as you have been familiar with it?

MR. HOFF: We do so much outside relief that it did get a little behind, but I have seen the time when they were pretty well caught up. Sometimes people would be out of work for a week or two, and we would give them a dollar or two to tide them over, and that is what we would do.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, you don't at any time put any limit on the amount which may be spent during any month for outside relief?

MR. HOFF: No, sir.

MR. WOLF: I mean you do not make up a budget, for example, to find out what your probable income will be and then apportion the amount which you will spend?

MR. HOFF: We have never done it, but we have thought of doing it.

MR. WOLF: It would be advisable, would it not?

MR. HOFF: It would, yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: You have paid off the second mortgage on your property haven't you?

MR. HOFF: There is one mortgage of ten thousand dollars, I believe that is all against the place.

THE CHAIRMAN: You still owe ten thousand dollars?

MR. HOFF: Yes, there is a statement of that in the account.

(Mr. Hoff was thereupon excused and retired).

(Mr. Fries, Counsel for the Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Board, requests permission to make a statement, which permission was granted by the Chairman.)

MR. FRIES: I would like to say that ever since the year 1907, known as the "panic" year, our district being markedly a manufacturing district, there has been an unusual demand for out-door relief, and there has been a slight deficiency during those years, and last year a more substantial one. We felt that we could meet those conditions of affairs because we had an award of nineteen thousand dollars from a road jury, but prior to this year the Finance Committee went over that proposition and made a recommendation to the Board which will be acted upon to-morrow evening, to confine our expenses entirely within our revenue and to make up our fixed charges for running expenses so as to bring it within our income—in other words to make our revenue and expenses balance one another. Now there is another matter that I wish to mention, and that is as to the borrowed money; So far as the notes are borrowed from Mr. Shallcross, while he has had entire charge of it, as appears on the books in connection with him, the loans are actually negotiated at the Second National Bank, Frankford, and there is where the money comes from, and Mr. Shallcross is merely the go-between in arranging that matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: But don't you think it is rather a bad method that your people can go and actually distribute relief without any limitation? Now, suppose that you had a man who was inclined to give away say two or three hundred dollars a month, you would have to pay it, according to the methods you have heretofore in vogue.

MR. FRIES: That institution out there, Senator, is an old institution and the directors, without any recompense whatever, have devoted their time to the management of that institution, and they have always been men of standing and integrity in the community, and only such have been elected for those positions, and they investigate each particular case that comes to them. We have been allowed a very large discretion as to the granting of relief to the needy and distressed, and the question of outdoor relief is a peculiar one, and it has been carried on out there for over one hundred years, and the people look upon us as a fixed institution, and we feel that it does a great deal of good, and we have very often to tide over people who are temporarily out of work and prevent them from becoming a charge on the community, and in that district out there everybody knows everybody else, and most of us know—who have lived there all our lives—more than half the inmates of that institution. The older people, most of them, have known better days, and we feel that we are doing a little bit more for them than is being done in any other locality or institution, and while I appreciate that they have quite a large discretion as to how much they should be allowed to expend on this work, yet you would be surprised at the discussions that take place at the meetings, and if a director's bills are large his attention is called to it and he is asked why the bills should not be cut down.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have no doubt that the directors work for the benefit of the community, but the method is wrong, and you may get there some day a man who is not honest and then what would happen?

MR. FRIES: We have had over one hundred years of clean record, and I think that a man who would use his office out there unfairly would not last very long in that institution, because our institution out there has been carried on largely independent of political influence, that is to say, there has never been very much politics in the board of directors, and as long as a man performs his duties faithfully he is continued term after term, and we are not interfered with by political influence or anything of that kind.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, isn't it true that the furnishing of supplies to the board by members of the board is directly contrary to law?

MR. FRIES: That is a very difficult question to approach. That question has been raised once or twice. A proceeding was brought before Magistrate Isenbrown in which there was a man arrested and

the director was discharged as there was really nothing in the charge. And there was an application at one time to the Attorney General of the State, and I think in that case District Attorney George S. Graham was deputed to investigate the matter, but there it was held that a director could furnish incidental matters to the institution as a matter of convenience, and things of that sort. You see, our mass of supplies are advertised for and we have contracts and things of that sort, but there is the matter of furnishing outside relief, temporarily, to some one particular person in a hurry in order to prevent dire distress, and the amounts as furnished by the directors are very trifling, as for instance in the Frankford District—

THE CHAIRMAN: But it is something that should be absolutely defined. For instance, a man supplying one hundred dollars worth of stuff—that amounts to nothing, but suppose some day these men that you speak of be not men of probity and you had somebody that would “work” your institution, don’t you think that would be bad?

MR. FRIES: I concede your point entirely, but that is a matter that has been in existence for years, that is to say, this temporary matter of furnishing certain supplies upon certain occasions and giving out orders, but I can’t see how it can be very much abused, and I know that our institution would be quite willing to re-arrange anything of that sort so as to make it free from criticisms of that kind. In Mr. Holme’s district there are twenty-five to forty grocers who furnish the bulk of the supplies and use it in other districts.

NATHAN L. JONES, heretofore sworn, recalled.

MR. WOLF: We examined the treasurer of your board at the last meeting and tried to get some explanation of certain items which appeared in your books, the explanation perhaps can be supplemented by you. In the first place, I see that the salary of the president has been increased from fifty dollars to one hundred dollars, is that correct?

MR. JONES: That is right.

MR. WOLF: And of the treasurer from fifty dollars to one hundred and twenty-five dollars, is that correct?

MR. JONES: Yes.

MR. WOLF: There does not seem to be any resolution authorizing that increase?

MR. JONES: That was a mistake of the secretary in not putting that down. It was passed at the annual meeting in March, 1909.

MR. WOLF: By whom?

MR. JONES: The Board of Directors.

MR. WOLF: There is an item in this book on October 21st, 1909, “Traveling expenses \$125.00”, can you tell me what that was?

MR. JONES: I presume that was expenses to the Bradford Convention.

MR. WOLF: That was always paid from the poor board receipts?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. WOLF: There is another item on December 9th, 1909, "extra expenses of outside relief, \$275.00", can you tell me what that is?

MR. JONES: I may not be able to tell you the item, but the general extraordinary outdoor relief is of that character. For instance, we hear of a case of distress from a physician or a clergyman or somebody else of reputation that somebody is temporarily out of employment—people who have not received assistance from the Overseers of the poor and who would not if they knew that it came from that source, and some of those people are poor but proud, and when they get the relief they never know where the relief comes from, and an order is drawn for it. And here is a case in point: A short time ago my attention was called to the case of a poor girl who was about to become a mother, and two physicians were sent for and they refused to go on account of the poverty of the family, and when it was brought to us we sent our physician, and when he got there he found the hand of the child protruding from the mother's womb, and it took that physician probably six or eight weeks to get her around, but of course the child died.

MR. WOLF: I understand the ordinary outside relief expenses, but I find no entry on the books containing any lump sum not itemized any further than "extra expenses and outside relief, \$275.00"?

MR. JONES: That is the character of the relief so that no one coming in contact with the books whether it was done for such a case as this young girl, as we think there would be too much stigma attached to these people if it became known.

MR. WOLF: Is there any way in which it would be possible to scrutinize that expense of \$275.00?

MR. JONES: When the bills are presented they are itemized and an order drawn on the treasurer for that amount.

MR. WOLF: I see an item on September 8th, 1910, "traveling expenses, \$150.00", is that also for attendance at the convention?

MR. JONES: Partially so, and part of it is steward's and matron's traveling expenses. The matron and the steward in making up their traveling expenses it used to be charged to "household accounts." For instance, taking patients to Blockley and to Norristown, and making purchases for the institution, such as shoes—that used to be charged to household accounts, but during the last two years that was charged to traveling expenses and that brings down our per capita to where it belongs.

MR. WOLF: Do you have religious services at the home?

MR. JONES: Not regularly. For instance a Baptist Minister may go there once a month and have services.

MR. WOLF: Do you pay any minister for the services?

MR. JONES: No, sir; they are only too glad to go without compensation.

MR. WOLF: You have kept at the Manayunk Trust Company on deposit the sum of about seven thousand dollars?

MR. JONES: About eight thousand I think.

MR. WOLF: For several years uninvested, haven't you, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I am glad you asked that question. That was a legacy left from the old board of directors before I became a member, and part of that was from the sale of goods to the Park, and we put that in the Manayunk Trust Company and it draws three and a half per cent. and where the remaining four thousand dollars come from I do not know.

(Mr. Bowker, of counsel for the Roxborough Poor Board, requests permission to ask the witness a few questions, which permission was granted by the Chairman.)

MR. BOWKER: If any of your people die you bury them yourself?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir; we do.

MR. BOWKER: Where?

MR. JONES: Leveringtn Cemetery, Roxborough.

MR. BOWKER: I want to call your attention to this fact: I talked with Mr. Wharton after the last meeting and he took the entire expense of the institution in estimating the per capita cost of maintenance. In other words, he included the cost of out-door relief and the cost of maintenance in Norristown and Blockley, which of course wasn't paid out on the same basis as the per capita cost at the Philadelphia Hospital. In other words, the per capita cost per week at Roxborough would be very much less, because he has included in it the items for out-door relief, and the Philadelphia Hospital amount in the neighborhood to \$2,595.71 in a total of \$6,447.62, which should not have been in there. I asked him after the meeting if that was included and he said it was, and of course in getting at the estimated cost of maintenance there is only one way to do it, and that is to use the same figures in all cases.

MATTHEW ADAM, called, sworn by the Chairman, and examined as follows:

MR. WOLF: Where do you live?

MR. ADAM: 300 East Brighthurst Street, Germantown.

MR. WOLF: Were you the secretary of the Germantown Poor Board?

MR. ADAM: No, sir. I acted as secretary I think at one meeting.

MR. WOLF: The meeting at which you acted as secretary was the special meeting called to approve a payment made to Mr. Reilly for expenses incurred in opposing legislation at Harrisburg, is that correct?

MR. ADAM: No, it was not a meeting called to approve that. I think it was the meeting that made that appropriation.

MR. WOLF: Will you give us as accurately as you remember it a statement of the purposes for which Mr. Reilly stated that money was asked?

MR. ADAM: Well, as near as I can remember the movement to abolish the poor house caught us by surprise and we did not know what steps we were going to take to fight it, and after discussing the matter amongst the directors we appropriated the sum of eight hundred dollars and turned it over to Mr. Reilly to use it as he thought best.

MR. WOLF: You placed no restriction upon him as to the manner in which it should be used?

MR. ADAM: No, we did not.

MR. WOLF: And he did not make any declaration as to the manner in which he was going to use it?

MR. ADAM: No, sir; he did not, but I think that the money was used to take a delegation to Harrisburg.

MR. WOLF: You did not get any itemized statement of the way in which the money had been expended?

MR. ADAM: We did not get any statement, but we knew exactly what was spent for.

MR. WOLF: As a matter of fact, how did you select the people who were sent up to Harrisburg?

MR. ADAM: We issued invitations to them.

MR. WOLF: In those invitations you offered to pay their expenses?

MR. ADAM: We did not offer to pay their expenses, I do not know exactly or don't exactly just recollect how it was worded, but we sent cards out to a number of people asking them if they would be willing to go to Harrisburg on a certain date, with the intimation that transportation would be furnished to them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adam, have you a copy or can you procure for this committee a copy of the card which you issued?

MR. ADAM: No, sir; I don't think I could. I think they were taken up on the train.

(Mr. Adam was thereupon excused and retired).



